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Latin America Report

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23 APRIL 1987

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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JAMAICA, TRINIDAD-TOBAGO LEADERS DISCUSS ISSUES OF CONCERN

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Feb 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] Prime Minister Seaga of Jamaica and Prime Minister Robinson of Trinidad and Tobago at a private meeting held immediately after Mr Seaga's arrival in Tobago Saturday, held informal talks which continued yesterday at the Crown Reef Hotel where they were joined by their respective advisors.

The Prime Ministers exchanged views on the present state of the economies of their respective countries and the strategies they were adopting to deal with the problem of structural adjustment necessary to create the foundations for self-sustained economic growth in the future.

Prime Minister Robinson accepted the offer by Prime Minister Seaga to provide Trinidad and Tobago with all information on Jamaica's new fiscal system as well as on the measures taken to reorganise the agricultural sector of Jamaica.

The discussions also focussed on trade matters--bilateral, intra-regional and with third countries. The Prime Minister of Jamaica indicated that his delegation to the forthcoming Caricom Council of Ministers meeting in Georgetown, Guyana, would introduce a proposal to reduce the common external tariff to a lower level with the proviso that member countries could adopt a tariff at the appropriate point above this level to suit their own peculiar economic circumstances.

Both Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress being made by the Caribbean Development Bank in the creation of a Caricom Export Credit Facility, and expressed their determination to resolve the problems which may have caused the original Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility to become inoperative.

Prime Minister Seaga raised the question of the stamp duty of 12% imposed by Trinidad and Tobago on all imports including Caricom products, and indicated that Jamaica,

as a part of its tax reform programme, might have to take action in this area. Prime Minister Robinson indicated that the matter had to be viewed within the context of Trinidad and Tobago's financial constraints, but hoped that the review which was at present being conducted not only of the country's financial management system but also of the structure and performance of the economic sectors, would provide a solution during this year for that problem as well as for other matters relating to trade such as import licencing and all tariffs.

Both Prime Ministers agreed on the need to take urgent action to control the evils of the abuse of narcotics and other substances which were threatening to destroy the fabric of their respective societies. It was agreed that both countries would immediately set in place cooperation and collaboration in combatting this social and economic menace.

Among other matters discussed were the question of Trinidad and Tobago's position on dual nationality, the Alien Landholding Act, the double taxation treaty between both countries, the intra-regional shipping service, and other regional programmes.

Both Prime Ministers reiterated their full commitment to regional co-operation and to the enhancement of both intra-regional trade and exports to third country markets, and undertook that Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica would work closely together to this end.

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CSO: 3298/169

CARIBBEAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO MEET IN AUGUST 1987

FL182100 Bridgetown CANA in English 1625 GMT 18 Mar 87

[By Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, 18 Mar (CANA)--The first ever conference of the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean is being organised to take place in August. A venue is still to be chosen.

The conference will involve representatives of the indigenous peoples from throughout the Caribbean region with special guests from Central America and Canada, where there are significant segments of aboriginal tribes.

The main objectives of the meeting, resulting from a three-day meeting in April last year of representatives of the Caribs in Dominica, Belize, and St Vincent and the Grenadines, are to:

- 1, Give national and international recognition to the importance of indigenous people;
2. Make a critical analysis of the social, economic, and political context of the countries with indigenous peoples and to identify the main issues of concerns to these citizens of the Caribbean;
- 3, Establish a basis for greater collaboration between and among indigenous peoples, regionally and internationally; and
- 4, Share opinions and strategies on how indigenous peoples can best impact on the programmes of governments in planning for the overall well-being of all of the sections of their societies,

Countries from Belize--with its Mayas and Garifunos--in the Central American region, to Suriname and Guyana in South America where the Bush Negro and Amerindian communities respectively comprise the fourth largest ethnic groups, as well as the Caribs of St Vincent and Dominica, are expected to be involved in the August conference.

The central theme of the conference is Caribbean indigenous revival--a stepping stone to greater recognition and developments.

The intention of the conference organisers is to promote a better appreciation of the history and culture of the indigenous peoples, of their contributions to national development and why they should become more integrally involved in the mainstream of life in the culturally adverse multi-ethnic societies of the Caribbean region.

The organisers have pointed out that the forthcoming conference should not be viewed as having anything to do with current problems between the Government of Dominica and the Carib people of the Oalybia area.

The conference is being launched with the assistance of various regional and extra-regional organisations, among them Oxfam, CUSO [Canadian University Service Overseas] and church-related funding agencies.

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CSO: 3298/169

BELIZE, JAMAICA FIRMS CONCLUDE ALCOHOL, ETHANOL DEAL

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Mar 87 p 1

[Article by Claudienne Edwards]

[Text]

LONGSTANDING negotiations being conducted by Petrojam with the Belize Government for the lease/sale of a sugar factory and lands to produce wet alcohol for its Ethanol Dehydration Plant in Jamaica, have finally been concluded.

The Agreement between Belize Sugar Industries Ltd. (BSI) and Petrojam for lease of the closed Libertad Sugar factory and 5,300 acres of land at Corazol, Belize was signed on February 28, a Petrojam spokesman has said. The factory and lands are to be leased at a cost of US\$3,650,000 over a five year period with the option to purchase at the end of the period for \$1.

Petrojam has undertaken the Belize investment because of its need to source significant quantities of alcohol in the Caribbean in order to take advantage of the CBI.

The Agreement although signed, is subject to a number of conditions being fulfilled by March 31. A condition of the Agreement is that it must be approved by the Governments

of Jamaica and Belize.

Another condition requires the Belize Government to grant a developmental concession to allow Petrojam to operate on a tax free basis for 10 years and to be allowed the duty free importation of equipment and approved operations tax free.

The Belize Government will also have to pass legislation to allow Petrojam to operate within the existing Sugar Cane Ordinances such as, for example, regulation of the supply of sugarcane.

Although the recently signed agreement does not include petroleum supplies, there is an understanding that Petrojam will supply all of Belize petroleum oil products requirements, a Petrojam spokesman told the Gleaner.

Petrojam will refine 560,000 barrels of crude oil annually for Belize thereby allowing that country to benefit from the San Jose Accord. But Esso which currently supplies petroleum oil products to Belize is still negotiating with the Belizean Government.

The Belize oil bill is US-\$9million annually, but the

proposed arrangement with Petrojam through which it will benefit from the San Jose Accord, will allow it to pay 20% of its annual oil bill at low interest rates over a five year period.

Petrojam's 50,000 million US gallon annual capacity Ethanol Dehydration Plant, at Marcus Garvey Drive, will get 12¼ million US gallons of wet alcohol from Belize. But a Petrojam spokesman said that production will not begin until the 1987-88 crop starting in December. Although the factory is in good condition refurbishing will have to be done and some new machinery bought. Cost of the machinery is estimated at US\$250,000.

Cane for the Libertad sugar factory will be supplied by Belizean cane farmers and from the 5,300 acres that are part of the lease/sale agreement. The spokesman said that Petrojam does not intend to grow cane itself but will contract with one of several organisations interested to grow, reap and deliver the sugarcane to the factory.

ARMED FORCES RECALL FALKLANDS ANNIVERSARY

PY032126 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 Apr 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)--Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu asked "God to give us strength to continue our efforts to make sure justice is done in our cause," during the ceremony commemorating the fifth anniversary of the initiation of military operations for the recovery of the Malvinas Islands.

In a speech to mark the occasion, Navy Infantry Commander Rear-Admiral Rodolfo Tettamanti expressed support for the fight against subversion when he called on the officers--in the presence of Navy Chief of Staff Ramon Arosa--to "protect as much as necessary those who, having fought for us, are today being tried in our place,"

Arosa said that "beyond the adverse result" of the war "nothing dims the honour of those who fought to the last of their possibilities," and that "that was a clear example of the spirit of sacrifice" that must mark the behaviour of military officers.

The Air Force, in turn, honoured the victims of the Malvinas War between Argentina and Britain in a ceremony that took place before a monument to "the victims of the war against subversion and the South Atlantic conflict."

General Rios Erenu said that the ceremony was in honour of "the glorious exploit of 2 April, in which we remember the courage of those who died in Malvinas" and criticized "those who try to attribute to the date a political connotation it does not have."

The military chief also said that "Argentina has decided to stand up before the world to claim its rights over the South Atlantic islands in peace and through diplomatic means."

The government only honoured the memory of the war dead, not taking a stand on the war itself. President Raul Alfonsin and high government officials attended a mass at the Stella Maris military vicariate church.

Politicians of several factions marked the date in different ways. The Metropolitan Radical Party issued a statement in solidarity with the relatives of the victims "who fought so bravely against imperialism."

The National Leftist Party declared that "a thick fog covers the heroic battles of the South Atlantic. A firm campaign headed by the President is trying to keep us from extracting all the consequences of the experiences in the Malvinas islands."

The Nationalist Peronist Movement said in a communique that "on 2 April Argentina emerged from the financial fatherland to heroically re-enter universal history."

The Malvinas War veterans yesterday held two demonstrations of different ideological convictions to commemorate the date. In one of them 1,000 demonstrators which included veterans and mostly Peronist politicians read a document asking for "trial and punishment for the civilians and military officers guilty of the Argentine defeat in the South Atlantic."

In the other some 2,000 veterans organized a march with the support of former de facto president General Leppoldo Galtieri.

The Salta provincial government headed by Peronist Roberto Romero yesterday declared the date a provincial holiday.

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CSO: 3300/10

MORE FUNDING EARMARKED FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

PY280036 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Mar 87 p 9

[Text] (NA-DYN)--The education budget for the current year was 20 percent higher than in 1986 and most of the extra funds were earmarked for university education while less funds would go to secondary education, Education Secretary Adolfo Stubrin told the budget committee of the Lower House of Congress yesterday.

Stubrin said the budget provisions for education were favourable but funds were not always made available on time to meet disbursements.

Stubrin was summoned by the committee together with Culture Secretary Carlos Bastianes, who said state-owned television station ATC would require 14 million australs this year compared to 18 million in 1986.

Bastianes said state subsidies to TV channels 11 and 13 as well as to seven radio stations in the provinces had been suspended some time ago and therefore no funds would be required for them in this year's budget.

The culture secretary said state-owned television and radio stations would provide free time to all political parties during the campaign for the 6 September elections on the same basis as during the 1985 campaign.

Meanwhile, the Federal Council of Education and Culture concluded a meeting in La Plata on Wednesday which led to complete agreement between the government and education ministries of all the provinces and the setting up of a financing committee to handle all aspects of education budgets.

The council also set up a committee on coordination of educational services and a committee on projects on educational transformation.

The financing committee will also have a liaison group to handle wages and labour union problems.

The meeting, opened by Stubrin, was attended by all provincial education ministers as well as the education secretaries of Buenos Aires City and of the Tierra del Fuego territory.

The meeting reached agreement that both the Radical and Peronist parties as well as provincial parties ruling their own provinces would have equal participation in the ruling of the council.

The agreement saved the council from disintegration following differences over its administration,

Education Minister Julio Rajneri was confirmed as the ad-honorem president of the council while the vice-president went to Jujuy Peronist Education Minister Hugo Eleit.

Stubrin said that before the opening of the meeting he received CTERA Secretary-General Wenceslao Arizcuren, who submitted a list of demands from his union.

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CSO: 3300/10

4 MILLION HECTARES UNDER WATER

PY032110 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 Apr 87 p 11

[Text] La Plata (NA-DYN)--The government yesterday declared the northwestern area of Buenos Aires province a "disaster area" and announced it will re-schedule debts by local producers and postpone payment of taxes and services indefinitely. Local shop-owners will also enjoy the benefits of the new measure.

The announcement was made by Agriculture Secretary Ernesto Figueras after a meeting with Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli and Public Works Minister Pedro Trucco.

Floods reached their peak yesterday with more than four million hectares of cultivated land under water and almost 15,000 people evacuated.

Provincial Government Minister Juan Portesi said the government is "doing everything possible" but regretted that the "dramatic" situation was beyond government means. "We are nevertheless trying to cover and even anticipate the needs of the population," he said.

Juan Jose Paso and 30 de Agosto have been almost completely covered by the waters and the situation there is regarded as "desperate."

Inhabitants of Juan Jose Paso complained about the lack of assistance from provincial authorities while dweller Manuel Viet said "only the Army is lending us a hand."

Rivadavia municipal authorities sent a telegram to Buenos Aires Vice Governor Elba Roulet denouncing a group of individuals who allegedly opened a breach in the embankment separating Fortin Olavarria and Roosevelt on the frontier between Buenos Aires and La Pampa.

The gap is reportedly intended to allow waters flooding towns in La Pampa to enter Buenos Aires territory. The situation could endanger Trenque Lauquen and nearby towns.

Pehuajo was reportedly surrounded by waters while the local population feared that further rains "would be the end of the town." Equipment supplied by the

provincial government was regarded as insufficient by local engineers who are assisting the population in building communication channels and embankments.

Almost 50 percent of Carlos Tejedor was under water yesterday while surrounding towns are completely isolated. Highway Five joining Pehuajo and Carlos Casares is under half a meter of water.

The situation is also reported desperate in some cities of the eastern area of La Pampa, where the overflowing of the Rio Quinto has flooded some 1.5 million hectares of land.

Waters flooding 130,000 hectares of land in Santa Fe were reportedly receding yesterday and the situation was considered by provincial authorities to be under control.

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CSO: 3300/10

BRIEFS

OUSTED COMMUNIST CRITICIZES PARTY--(NA)--Mendoza--Veteran Mendoza Communist leader Angel Bustelo yesterday criticized the "pettiness" of the party "bureaucrats" who expelled him and 16 other activists from the party. The poet and former provincial deputy accused party committee members of trying to divide the party and said the Argentine Communists were going through the worst internal crisis of their history. However, Bustelo, 78, denied any relationship with 1983 presidential candidate Rubens Iscaro, who was expelled last week for accusing the present party leadership of being interested in armed revolution. "Excuse me while I laugh," commented Bustelo on Iscaro's charges. Bustelo accused the Communist Party of "historical inconsistency" since it had variously supported the anti-Peronist Democratic Union, the Peronists, the Trotskyists and even military governments at times. The communist, who joined the party in 1936, was imprisoned during the former military regime on the orders of then 8th Mountain Infantry Brigade Commander Jorge Maradona (now retired). [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Apr 87 p 15 PY] /9274

PROCEEDINGS IN BRITISH SHARES DEAL--(NA-DYN)--The National Administrative Investigations Bureau yesterday began judicial proceedings against three Argentine citizens acting as straw men for the British-owned DHL postal services company in order to avoid a law passed during the Malvinas War. Brigadier General Ernesto Niethardt, Ricardo Giaccino and Carlos Mackinlay were accused by bureau prosecutor Ricardo Molinas of simulating the purchase of DHL shares owned by British subjects David Allen and Christopher Reid so as to elude the law freezing British-owned assets in Argentina. Molinas sent the file to federal Judge Amelia Berraz de Vidal and a copy of the judicial claim to the Air Force "to assess the conduct of Brigadier General Niethardt." [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Mar 87 p 11 PY] /9274

POLL SHOWS RADICAL LOSSES--(NA-DYN)--The Radical party has lost 10 percent of its support compared to the November 1985 elections while the Peronists increased their support by three percent, according to a survey carried out by the Aftalion, Mora y Araujo y Noguera sociological and political bureau. The survey showed that the apolitical proportion of the population increased from 13 to 17 percent while the undecided went up from 20 to 21 percent. Meanwhile, the Electoral Appeals Court announced that the overall electoral rolls included 18,926,834 voters of which just over 9.7 million were women. The report said 5.61 percent of the voters were illiterate. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Mar 87 p 11 PY] /9274

FRANCE TO INSTALL SATELLITE-LAUNCHING CENTER

PY211203 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 12 Mar 87 p 8

[Text] Paris--France will supply Brazil with all the equipment for the installation of a satellite-launching center. The announcement was made by the French company, Thomson-CSF. All the equipment has passed the platform tests in France and its sale is part of a global contract signed in 1983 with the Aeronautics Ministry for the development of the SISEA (Air Space Control System) for the country.

According to Andre Remondiere, director of satellite-launching center in French Guiana, the equipment will be installed at the satellite-launching base in the city of Alcantara, Maranhao State. The Alcantara center will thus be equipped with two trajectory tracking stations fitted with Atlas and Adour radars, a telemetering station, and a synchronizing center for all the equipment at the base. The Atlas radar is one of the best to track the trajectory of long-range missiles and determine the satellite orbits up to 450 or 5,000 kilometers, provided the missile and satellites are equipped with a signaler (sinalizador).

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CSO: 3342/100

BRAZIL

AIR MINISTER SEES NO THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Aeronautics Minister Octavio Moreira Lima has stated that there should not be pessimism about the transition and adjustment period of the current Brazilian process. He added that despite the difficulties, there is no threat to the democratic process.

[Begin recording] [Moreira] We are obviously in a period of transition and adjustment, and sometimes a period like that is conducted in an unreasonable manner in some areas, but this is no threat to the development of our political process in the search for full democracy. [end recording]

Minister Moreira Lima made this comment in Natal, where he inspected the Barreira do Inferno Launching Center. The minister returned to Brasilia this afternoon.

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CSO: 3342/100

BRAZIL

CIVILIAN HOUSEHOLD PAPER FAVORS 6-YEAR PRESIDENTIAL TERM

PY020103 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Mar 87 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Planalto Palace is distributing among its policymakers a confidential paper prepared by the Civilian Household, which raises legal, political, and historical arguments in favor of a 6-year presidential term for President Jose Sarney. The main argument is that if the presidential term can be reduced, despite the fact that the Constitution has established a 6-year term, the same applies to the 4-year term for the deputies or the 8-year term for the senators.

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CSO: 3342/100

COMMUNIST PARTIES CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES SEPARATELY

PY031827 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Mar 87 p a-7

[Text] The Brazilian Communist Party (PCB), and the Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B), estranged since 1961, commemorated separately the 65th anniversary of their foundation yesterday in Rio de Janeiro. The party leaders said they are convinced that their conflicting views of internal and external matters prevent them from reuniting. Yesterday at noon, the two parties organized rallies in different places of the city: the PCB in Cinelandia, and the PC do B in the Largo da Carioca, 2 blocks away, in downtown Rio. At 1900, 150 PC do B members attended a ceremony in the State Legislative Assmely Hall, while 500 PCB members met at the Rio City Hall.

"There is no chance for our reunification as long as the reasons that led to our split in 1961 persist," PC do B President Joao Amazonas said yesterday. In the past, Amazonas, 75, held to the Chinese revolutionary line but nowadays he identifies himself with the Albanian Communist Party. This ideological difference was the reason for the split in 1961 in the Communist Party of Brazil, founded in 1922.

Joao Amazonas abandoned the PCB headed by Giocondo Dias because Luis Carlos Prestes, former party secretary general accepted Nikita Khrushchev's criticism of Stalinism in 1956. Meanwhile, Salomao Malina, 63, PCB Executive Board member, said yesterday that the reunification of the two parties "is not feasible because they have a different view of Brazilian reality" and "because the PC do B views capitalist and socialist countries in the same way."

In Sao Paulo, the PCB and the PC do B commemorated their anniversary in separate celebrations. At 1600 the PCB organized minielections in front of the Eltropaulo building, in the Viaduto do Cha, downtown Sao Paulo. The PC do B gave a cocktail party at 1900 in its regional office on the Condessa de Sao Joaquim Street, in the Liberdade district, also in downtown Sao Paulo.

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CSO: 3342/100

PCDOB CLAIMS PROMOTE SQUATTER ACTIONS

PY030245 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Gilberto Natalini, the president of the executive board of the Sao Paulo Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B), has said that the PC do B is one of the promoters of the squatter movement in eastern Sao Paulo and that the movement "was never out of control," as stated by leaders of the "Movement of Landless People." According to reports released by the Secretariat of Public Security, yesterday the police evicted squatters from three areas. However, 15 other areas were occupied. The Land Affairs Mission [Pastoral da Terra, a Catholic Church movement] believes that 25,000 families continue to occupy the land. The night before last, the Civil Metropolitan Guard [Guarda Civil Metropolitana] was summoned to assist in patrolling the area. The Military Police (PM) will continue the patrolling.

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CSO: 3342/100

CHILE

CIVILIAN LEADERS ASK NUNCIO TO SUPPORT BISHOPS

PY011829 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1555 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Santiago, 29 Mar (EFE)--More than 400 Chilean civilian leaders have written to Nuncio Angelo Sodano requesting his support for the episcopate of Chile "in the face of pressures and attacks from the government."

Signed by former ministers, former ambassadors, retired generals and admirals, academics, labor and social leaders, the note says that "the Chilean bishops are victims of the government's constant campaign to pressure the church, and to undermine its authority when it points out norms that are at odd with those of the regime."

The signatories of the note refer to the case of Bishop Carlos Camus who has been threatened with death for making statements critical of military government. They note that "the justice minister spoke on a national radio network to respond to the bishop in disproportionate terms."

The note sent to Nuncio Sodano adds that "this reaction is deliberately intended to permanently pressure the church." It then says that "what happened to Msgr Camus is not an accidental and isolated fact. The Vatican should protest over the use of a national radio network to attack a bishop, who is not given access to the same network to defend himself."

The note concludes by telling Nuncio Sodano that "grieving for our fatherland and the church, we ask you to assume the defense of the admirable episcopate, to which Chile is permanently indebted."

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CSO: 3348/250

SANFUENTES ON PCCH DOCUMENT CALLING FOR UNITY

PY020129 Santiago LA EPOCA in Spanish 23 Mar 87 p 8

[Article by Lucy Davila]

[Text] People's Democratic Movement (MDP) Secretary General Jose Sanfuentes, who is also a Communist Party [PCCH] leader, yesterday spoke about a document entitled "Communist Party proposals for a political solution," which the PCCH political committee published in February. He said that rather than a formal reply, his party wants a meaningful response to its proposals, particularly those regarding the MDP.

The document maintains that the current crisis calls for a political solution that must be agreed upon by all opposition parties, and that the PCCH is willing to negotiate and consider all proposals, including those dealing with the methods of struggle.

Sanfuentes said: The people have warmly welcomed the PCCH document, because it reflects things that are more important for them: On the one hand, a resolute struggle against the dictatorship for the just claims of bread, jobs, justice, freedom, and democracy, now; on the other, an endeavor for essential understanding within the opposition, which is the people's fondest aspiration now.

Sanfuentes said that the document, which states that "all opposition sectors should sit down at a table to seek an agreement on the objectives and methods of struggle against the dictatorship," contains "realistic and generous" proposals, adding that such proposals can help the opposition achieve unity. The PCCH leader remarked that there is a precondition to this: namely, that "the objective of the agreement within the opposition be to build democracy as soon as possible, rather than to negotiate with those who killed democracy."

Sanfuentes stressed that the PCCH proposal, which for some leaders of other parties reflects a slight change in the Communist position, was "welcomed by other progressive and leftist sectors that have maintained similar views." For example, Sanfuentes said, there is total agreement within the MDP and within the Coordinating Board of Leftist Organizations, of which the PCCH, the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], and most Socialist sectors are members. He added that "many of the proposals formulated by the progressive

sectors of the Christian Democratic Party, the Radical Party, and the Republican Party also reflect this agreement."

Sanfuentes explained that all parties have analyzed the document and the PCCH has even asked the church and all the social and political organizations for their opinion. He said: "In general, the document has elicited a very receptive and positive reaction. However, we would like a meaningful response to our country's pressing needs; our most urgent need is to negotiate and reach an agreement. Unfortunately, some opposition sectors do not as yet appear willing to sit at a table with everyone else."

Campaign for Free Elections

Sanfuentes pointed out that the opposition should try to reach an agreement on mobilization, which is a major issue. Mobilization can "support workers' demands, as it did in the events of 10 March and in those scheduled for 25 March, which will be attended by Christian Democratic Party sectors, Radical Party members, Socialists, and the PCCH, who also attended the 10 March events." Sanfuentes pointed out that it is also possible to agree on political demands, which center around "the urgency for free elections in a free Chile, now."

All opposition sectors should agree on this point in order to establish minimum conditions to attain this objective. "The first condition is that Pinochet should immediately leave power," he stressed.

Concerning each party's isolated actions in this campaign, Sanfuentes said that "it is irrational; it is deplorable, because the real power of any movement striving for free elections and for other demands lies in its own unity. Such isolated efforts for free elections or other demands will yield no results. We believe that elections will be possible only in a free Chile, and those who dream of free elections in a Chile with Pinochet and with a dictatorship are wasting their time; they are not only naive but also irresponsible."

/9599

CSO: 3348/250

LEFTIST PARTIES NOT TO REGISTER FOR ELECTIONS

PY022050 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Mar 87 p C2

[Text] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCH] and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) have signed a document released by the Leftist Coordinating Board, which calls for the defeat of the institutionalization of the regime, the political defeat of the regime, and real free elections.

The spokesman of the Coordinating Board, Raul Diaz who belongs to the Socialist Party headed by Almeyda, was asked if the PCCH, by signing a document that advocates "the political defeat" of the regime, has abandoned its position to defeat the regime militarily. Diaz said that the media should abide by the content of the document and should check individually with each party.

PCCH member Ociel Nunez attended the press conference given by the Coordinating Board, and indicated that his party in another public declaration has stated the same political position.

The document, released by the Leftist Coordinating Board, adds that to get free elections it will first be necessary to conduct a massive social mobilization, because the people have the right to rebel against the regime in demand of their rights. The parties that signed the document state that they will not register in the registry established by the Law of Political Parties, and that such registration in the electoral registries alone will not lead to democracy.

The leftist parties advocate a campaign demanding free elections. The document says: "Chilean history clearly shows that our parties have been the bastions of the people's sovereign will and how to improve it. With this moral authority we reject and denounce any effort to exclude us."

However, the document disagrees with how the campaign is being conducted by saying: "We believe that the greatest responsibility to lead this national campaign undoubtedly belongs to all the opposition political parties; the value of initiatives from people and social sectors such as the recently created Committee of Personalities notwithstanding."

The 11 political parties that signed the document are: the Socialist Party headed by Nunez; the Socialist Party headed by Almeyda; the Christian Left; the Socialist Party headed by Mandujano; the PCCH; the Chilean United Popular Action Movement-Workers and Peasants Faction; the United Popular Action Movement of Peasant and Workers; the Unitary Socialist Party; the Historic Socialist Party; the MIR; and the United Popular Action Movement.

/9599

CSO: 3348/250

CARIB EXPULSION PLAN MEETS RESISTANCE FROM GOVERNMENT

Carib, Charles Positions

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 13 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

Caribs on the island's Carib Territory are now asking illegal non-Carib residents to pack up and get off the reserve.

The situation which came to head this week led to the blocking of roads in the territory by Carib youth.

The move said Chief Auguste is not racial but rather of cultural preservation. He said, "Dominica is made up of two different types of people, the Carib Dominicans and the Afro-Dominicans, both with different cultures. We respect African culture all we ask is that they respect ours too. We have been pushed to one side on a reservation and they are encroaching on the reservation and are mixing they don't have a right to kill anybody's culture or race because God created all the races on the earth."

The situation explained Chief Auguste involved 'strangers' coming to the

reserve to settle, he said, "Some would come to the territory to first get a girlfriend and settle on the land".

According to the Chief, the presence of the non-Caribs have contributed to the increase in drug circulation, assaults on women and aggravated divisions among Carib families.

Chief Auguste pointed out that due to outside influences the Carib people are getting confused about land ownership. In the past the land on which they lived and worked was always regarded as belonging to them. Now they are being advised to get certificates of title.

According to the Chief the right of residence on the reserve belongs to those born in the Carib Territory; those born of Carib parents and people who have been living in the territory for more than 12 years as stated in the law.

Prime Minister Charles however stated that the Caribs proposed segregation attempt could not be allowed under the Dominica Constitution, noting that Caribs were Dominicans bound by the country's Constitution, she said.

[As published]

that Caribs could not be allowed to abuse human rights, adding that there was freedom of movement in Dominica and she would not allow apartheid to be practised in the country.

Parliamentary representative for the area the honourable Ann Timothy has expressed her fear that the racial abuse being hurled at non-Carib residents could provoke repercussions for Caribs travelling in other parts of the country.

Meetings between the Carib council and the Prime Minister Attorney General, Minister of Culture and the Commissioner of Police are planned.

Further Details

FL161141 Bridgetown CANA in English 2106 GMT 14 Feb 87

[Text] Roseanu, 14 Feb (CANA)--The head of Dominica's Carib Indians, Irvine Auguiste, says his council is determined to go ahead with plans to expel some blacks from the Carib reserve--despite a strong warning by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles that such action would not be tolerated by her government.

However, Chief Auguiste said his council would meet with parliamentary representative Ann Timothy to discuss the situation, and was also hoping to have discussions with the government.

Auguiste told CANA there were nine non-Carib residents who the council wanted out of the sprawling reserve in the north of the country because they had no right there. Another fifteen who had resided there for over twelve years could remain, he said.

Council members have argued that the 3,700 acres of land comprising the reserve belonged to the Caribs, descendants of Dominica's first inhabitants, and they would press ahead with plans to have non-Caribs removed. However, Prime Minister Charles said an expulsion was tantamount to the introduction of apartheid and would not be tolerated by the government.

Government-Carib Meeting

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 20 Feb 87 p 4

[Article by Anthony Andre]

[Text]

After a meeting between Government and the Carib Council, Tuesday, Attorney General Brian Alleyne has concluded that the conflict could well be over.

The meeting which examined the Carib Reserve Act No. 22 of 1978, which the council had based their proposed eviction action against non-Carib residents after which it was concluded that a misunderstanding had arisen in the councils interpretation of the act. The council had linked

the act rights of residency with an old Carib custom dealing with who should live within the territory.

Originally the issue which had been one of race and cultural preservation reached its climax last week with the councils request that non-Carib residents should leave the 3,700 acre Reserve. The council cited drug trafficking, cultural erosion and the increase in crime as threats to their existence.

It was however agreed upon during the meeting at which Police representatives were

present that the police would do all in their power to preserve peace law and order while councillors would assist Police in identifying marijuana cultivations and apprehending the drug users and traffickers within the reserve.

The Attorney General however had warned earlier in the week that Caribs should not be harassed over the situation.

The meeting which also explored and examined other important issues concluded that there was much need for closer consultations

between the Carib council and the Government.

Mr. Alleyne disclosed Monday, that certain villagers in the nearby village of Wesley and Marigot, had promised retaliatory measures against the Caribs, following their previous decision of a determined eviction of the non-Carib residents.

The minister assured that the Government would not allow Dominica to be divided racially and warned people against resorting to such actions.

Tuesday's meeting although not assuring total satisfaction to the Caribs, ensured efforts would be on the cultural issue to help reserve and develop Carib culture.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE REVIEWS BANANA SITUATION

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 27 Feb 87 p 22

[Text]

Minister with responsibility for Agriculture, Hon. Charles Maynard told the House on Monday that under the Dominica Banana Marketing Corporation Act, No. 11 of 1984, any excess of the revenues of the Association for any financial year should be placed in a reserve fund to be used in accordance with the rules made by the Board with the approval of the Administration in Council, or Cabinet.

Questions had been asked by the member for Wesley, Hon. Elford Henry about setting up a fund to assist farmers by way of subsidies to the banana price in difficult times as the industry was now experiencing whereby growers were required to leave 40 % of the bananas in their field; member for Grand Bay, Hon. Pierre Charles about as to would bear the burden of the scores of tons of bananas left behind during the last few shipments; and Senator Jenner Armour as to when normal shipments would resume.

The 1978 accounts of the DBGA which preceded the DBMC showed the existence of three different reserves or funds totalling \$2,663,573 but by the end of 1980 following the devastation of Hurricanes

David and Allen, the entire amount was completely used up and turned into a deficit as a result of cash subsidies and inputs given to farmers for rehabilitation of the industry. Since then there has not been a surplus until the 1986 financial year.

Then Mr. Maynard said, every farmer knew that 1986 was overall a particularly good trading year for the industry. By virtue of this, prices were maintained steady by the Corporation through the end of 1986, prices were maintained steady by the Corporation through the end of 1986 and into the first three weeks of 1987 notwithstanding the normal seasonal drop in the U.K. price.

Very severe weather conditions towards the end of January resulted in the contraction of the market and forced the Corporation to resort to a restricted harvested regime for two successive weeks, in spite of which some 798 tons of fruit were left back at the ports and have been paid for in full by the Corporation.

The situation is now back to normal since the week commencing February 9, said the Minister.

/9274

CSO: 3298/170

DOMINICA

BRIEFS

SENATOR'S RESIGNATION--Roseau, 10 Mar (CANA)--Government Senator Eardley Castor has resigned from the Dominica Parliament. The speaker of the House of Assembly, who announced the resignation yesterday, gave no reason for the action. Castor was made a senator by the ruling Dominica Freedom Party Government after the 1985 general election. He had been absent for recent sittings of the house and had reportedly been out of the country. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1322 GMT 10 Mar 87 FL] /9274

CSO: 3298/170

BLAIZE, GAIRY AIR VIEWS ON CURRENT POLITICS, ECONOMICS

Blaize on Political Atmosphere

St Georges THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER in English 7 Feb 87 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has warned Grenadians that there are people who wish to take the country back into a rule similar to that which the island had between the revolution of 1979 and the military intervention of 1983,

The warning came in the course of the Prime Minister's address to a public gathering at Queens Park on Saturday, February 7th, as Grenada celebrated its 13th anniversary of independence.

"I wonder if you realise," he said, "that, while we are trying to move forward, there are those who are committed to return to the situation of 1979 to 1983. Not because we are all Grenadians, we are all moving in the same direction. I want you to know that alongside of you could be sitting those who want to make sure you go back to where you came from in 1983."

Exploit

These people, he said, make capital of and exploit any dissention in the ranks of Government.

Those who want to upset the Government, he said, must feel satisfied when there is dissention in the governing party, but, as in a marriage, there must be dissention sometimes.

However, he admonished his listeners to be careful that any dissatisfactions they may have with Government are not exploited.

"Be careful about the people around you who seem to agree with you when you are dissatisfied with some things," he said, "because they are going to use that to build up their ammunition against the whole country."

In an obvious reference to Sir Eric Gairy under whose administration Grenada became independent in 1974, Mr Blaize said those who are predicting that the Government will fall within the next three months "forget they did not tell us the secret of the money making machine which they said they were going to get when we had independence 13 years ago."

"We do not have that money making machine," he said, "We do not know if one exists, like the UFO's, we are not sure about that."

Critical

The Prime Minister was critical too of some Grenadians who call for "participatory democracy" such as existed under the Peoples Revolutionary Government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

"In those days," Mr Blaize said, "they used to have what they called a 'budget session,' and it was one of the most hypocritical, deceptive things that was ever found in the name of democracy."

People were brought together and there was a great deal of talking which made the people think they had a chance to influence the national budget, he said, but details of that budget had all been settled in advance.

"No matter what you said, it made no difference whatever," the Prime Minister said, "so they just used you as pawns to proclaim that they were democratic and a lot of people believed to the extent that some of them are coming to this Government and saying there must now be that kind of participatory government."

Mr Blaize said the "mock" in that type of "democracy" is obvious. His Government, he said, is committed to provide the means whereby people in every village will have an input, not only in their village affairs, but "to send the word on so that it reaches Cabinet which is constitutionally required to make the decision on behalf of the people."

During the course of 1987, he said, local Government will be restored on such a wide base that every village will have a chance to have their elected Council which will decide their affairs.

"The Central Government will be responsible to the requirements and needs of each village," the Prime Minister said, "and that is what we call 'participatory democracy' because it means dealing with the affairs of the people from the grassroots right up."

Referring to the fact that on the 13th anniversary of independence, Grenada has become a "teenager," Mr Blaize said the country has never been found backward in coming forward to be first in many things.

"In the 13 years of our existence," he said, "short as that period is in the world of living reality, this country has experienced a more varied and horrendous 13 years than many countries with centuries of existence."

Mr Blaize said the first 5 of those 13 years, (when Grenada was under the administration of the government of Sir Eric Gairy) caused the rising of the next four and a half years (when the Peoples Revolutionary Government was in power).

Swing

This, the Prime Minister said, was a swing from the "right of oppression" to the "left of repression," and, over the last two and a half years, the country has come back to the "middle," trying to find its feet.

This is not an easy task, he said, and it is not easy to tell people to move forward together because they have been so battered from right to left "that some will not recognise where 'together' is."

"We have taken a new turn," Mr Blaize said, "and, by the grace of God, since the elections of December 1984, we have been given a mandate by the people of Grenada to lead them in the right path, trusting always in the guidance of the Almighty."

Gairy on Past Accomplishments

St Georges THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER in English 7 Feb 87 p 10

[Text] In an Independence Day message issued on February 4th, Sir Eric Gairy, Political Leader of the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), says what one does with "independence" is important.

It was under his Administration that Grenada attained independence on 7th February 1974 and Sir Eric says he is "quite satisfied" with progress Grenada made under his Administration in the period 1974 to 1979 when his Government was overthrown by the New Jewel Movement revolution of March 13th 1979.

Sir Eric says the interpretation some have given to "independence": is to make oneself independent by selfishness and greed and, referring to the alleged infighting in the ranks of Prime Minister Blaize's New National Party Government, Sir Eric is critical of the "independence" of today.

Blatant

"The most evident display of independence within the present Administration is the struggle for independence of Ministers and self," he says, "which, of course, must result in blatant disunity in Government, which again, must produce chaos and general retrogression for our nation, as is graphically evident."

Grenada is going backward, Sir Eric says, importing soap, coconut oil and other things from other small islands and placing the island on the last rung of the ladder in contrast to its position under GULP administration.

"Independence should be used as a positive means of attracting world friendship, respect, among other things, of course," he says, "and to place us in a position of sharing with and enjoying some of the prosperity experienced by some of the advanced nations."

Referring to the launching of his trade union activities in 1951, Sir Eric says that, "in spite of contradicting propaganda," Grenada's "liberation" occurred then. It was then, he says, that, "for the first time in Grenadian history, the working class and grassroot masses experienced a sense of consciousness and the importance of their contribution, individually and severally, as important cogs within the process of nation-building."

Leadership

One of Grenada's national heroes, T. Albert Marryshow, was called the "Father of Federation," Sir Eric says, and he expresses the opinion that, within the Windward and Leeward Islands, many people may refer to him (Gairy) as the "Father of Independence" because under his leadership, Grenada led these territories in attainment of Independence.

The GULP political leader says that the majority of young Grenadians "are now suffering under the yoke of unemployment," and they see independence as a bleak and negative phenomenon.

"It is fortunate, however," he says, "that the youths seem to be making a complete right-about turn and are quite strongly indicating their support for GULP...."

Birthday Fete for Gairy

St Georges GRENADA GUARDIAN in English 20 Feb 87 p 3

[Text]

On Wednesday, February 18, Sir Eric Matthew Gairy celebrated his 65th. Birthday Anniversary at his home on Upper Lucas Street, St. George's, where some friends join in to wish Sir Eric "Happy Birthday".

The party was well attended and there were lots to eat and drink. The atmosphere was cordial and friendly, and all who were there ap-

peared to be very happy, and wished Sir Eric all that is good for the future.

Some time during the function, Sir Eric took the opportunity to hint A "BIG PLAN" for Grenada's future development with lasting peace and prosperity.

This plan, he said, like all the others, is not from my personal material mind, for it is much bigger

than I, but from the Source from which all my successful projects come and, indeed, the Source from which all good things come will see it through with the same measure of success that accompanied those of the past.

Sir Eric hinted to his anxious listeners that: "This BIG PLAN will completely eliminate "Masked" and "Hold-up" crimes, re-

duce the incidence of rape and will significantly reduce all other sorts of crime; give employment to thousands of young people: it will give a phenomenal boost to sports, providing Pavillion facilities all over the country; it will enhance the level of our national Education System with the establishment of a fully accredited University to provide a 'First Degree' in the Liberal Arts, and will provide hundreds of Scholarships, in nearly every conceivable field from countries around the world: it will bring several thousands, perhaps millions, of people to Grenada throughout each year, and attract many hundreds of new business enterprises

all over Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

I know that some people may say that is all madness but that expression is no stranger to me. This was expressed in every single project that came through me. But every one was a total success. Furthermore, perhaps were it not for Maurice Bishop's coup in 1979 the plan which came to me by inspiration for improvement of the city of St. George would have been implemented by now.

That plan called for a 'fly-over' from Church Street ending up on reclaimed land beyond the Esplanade. Mr. Roy St. John was already given instructions to start the re-

clamation process dumping scores of old abandoned vehicles and other derelicts scattered all over the country.

Today we would have had 54 acres of solid land adjoining Melville Street, the Esplanade, followed by the 2nd. phase which provides for a decent road around the hospital area ending beyond Burns Point to join up with the new Lagoon Road which I was inspired to announce several years ago when opposition forces felt that "it was a waste of tax payers money, because the road would sink." This big plan coming to me from the One Great Source, and will attract world focus.

Blaize Election Plans

St Georges INDIES TIMES in English 21 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

A confidential report from inside the GNP rank says that P.M. Blaize and his GNP cronies have decided on a new plan to manners the joint-leadership twin of Brizan and Alexis. The report says that the

GNP die hards have agreed to expel Brizan and Alexis from the party any-time they 'give trouble' again. It is said that the GNPs say they just waiting for the two to try anything.

But this is not the full plan. The GNPs are reported to have decided that they will call a SNAP ELECTION in July or August after they expel the twin.

Following Blaize's successful shuffle of the pack the GNPs seem to be in a mood to fight Alexis and Brizan to the ground.

They say that if the ship must sink then let everyone do down with it.

The GNP cronies are said to have begun looking for candidates they can use to replace the rebel section of their NNP. In fact our report gave names of some people being assessed for possible candidates.

The report states further that the expulsion of the two could come sooner than expected. The GNPs expect Alexis and Brizan to oppose them on the

budget. They have therefore

that if this happens then it is expulsion time.

The time for their part have taken the reshuffle as mild as ever. They seem prepared to take their death as sheep.

This latest Indies Times bombshell shows that Blaize and his right wing old crimes are prepared to hold power at all cost.

We have to watch the coming months to see how this new NNP scenario will play out.

Gairy Support for Blaize

St Georges GRENADA GUARDIAN in English 27 Feb 87 pp 1-3

[Article apparently by Eric Gairy, former Prime Minister and leader of the Grenada United Labor Party]

[Text]

In politics one should expect elements and moments of ungratefulness and thanklessness.

I, as a politician and statesman, have experienced my share of it. But, in a general way, the people, as a whole, have been demonstrating their appreciation, and gratefulness

very generously in various ways.

Speaking of ungratefulness, I think that Herbert A. Blaize is certainly getting more than his share and, in many cases, by people that he has helped, and by some who lauded him and praised him as a hero sent to champion their

cause - to lead them in the jealous and malicious opposition to do battle against Gairy and his GULF since in the early 50's. Yes, Blaize was idolized by a fairly large GNP membership.

Even as recently as the latter half of 1964, from July to December 3, some people choose him as their political king, again to do battle with GULF, in their avid struggle for political power. Even George Brizan and Francis Alexis, in nearly all their meetings acknowledged and proclaimed Blaize as Grenada's best hero. Tillman Thomas, Phinsley St. Louis, Kenny Lalsingh and the whole lot of them were strongly expressive in their support of Herbert Blaize as the best man to lead our Nation.

People say that there are indications, perhaps vivid signs, of Blaize's deterioration in physical health and, perhaps so, in his mannerisms and expressions.

But, isn't Herbert Blaize the same person who, as a school-

boy, had a very serious accident with his bicycle, and suffered severe injuries? Could it not be that perhaps both his present physical condition and mentality are the result of that very serious accident?

That being so, and considering that none of us is completely exempted from the possibility of an accident, should we not be in sympathy with such a man rather than give him the horrors that he now receives?

Personally, I think that Mr. Blaize should step down, in his own interest, because of his health and his inability to maintain the standard of his expressions which had always shown him as one above average intelligence which unfortunately is no longer so. Personally, I feel Mr. Blaize should step down because this is unequivocally the expressed wish of the majority of people in Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, and even the wish of Grenadians and non-Grenadians outside of Grenada.

Let me say, however, that the manner in which George Brizan and Francis Alexis

(at one-time his promoters and defenders) are demanding their Leader to step down is deplorably ridiculous, savage-like, utterly disrespectful and barbarous.

What one does is not as important as how he does it. The political babies must pay respect to situation at present so to do.

Whether Mr. Blaize is succeeded by Ben Jones or Keith Mitchell, Francis Alexis or George Brizan, I can only hope that he is treated with all the dignity and respect paid to a former Prime Minister in any other country governed by civilized people.

Mr. Blaize, having served so many years now as Leader of the Opposition, Chief Minister, Premier, Prime Minister, that man should enjoy the privilege of a government car with police driver to transport him whenever he arrives in Carriacou or in Grenada as a "former Prime Minister". He should not be waiting in line whether Immigration, Airport, Post Office, Treasury or anywhere else. He should be treated

as is done in every civilized country.

Of course, it is said that Ben Jones is much weaker, as a politician, than Herbert Blaize; it is said that no one really trusts Keith Mitchell; and it is the opinion of Grenadians that Brizan and Alexis would put Grenadians in the same or worse "hell" than the Maurice Bishop's regime, because real committed Communists never change. Mr. Blaize should be included as a "former Prime Minister" in some of the most important discussions concerning our National well-being. His advice, or rather, his opinion should be sought in some matters. In other words, his successor should give him all that's due to a "former Head of State", even though I, Eric Gairy

do not enjoy any such thing.

When Mr. Jimmy Carter was President of the United States, I attended a formal function at the White House. I was very touched by the respect paid to former President Ford. He sat in the front row, and was always given a place of honour during the entire function of that evening which included a formal dinner.

This was the occasion of the signing of the Panama Canal Treaty. In that function a very significant thing occurred. A picture was taken with President Carter, Lady Carter, President Ford, Mrs. Johnson (wife of former President Lyden Johnson) and myself. About three weeks later, President Carter sent me, by special envoy directly from the White House, two lovely copies of the

picture taken, beautifully framed, for my special collection.

The point I wish to bring out is that the picture contained the Head of State of the strongest nation and the Head of State of the smallest and economically weakest nation of our hemisphere at that time, a former Head of State and the wife of another former Head of State. Former Heads of State are always treated with the honour, dignity and respect due to them by every civilized and well-balanced government.

Let all former Heads of State, including Mr. Herbert A. Blaize be treated properly with the honours, dignity and respect due to them, for God's sake.

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CSO: 3298/172

AIR JAMAICA CHIEF; U.S. 'HARASSING' AIRLINE OVER DRUGS

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 8 Mar 87 p 1

[Text]

AIR JAMAICA'S President, Mr. Noel Hylton, is convinced that the airline "is being harassed" by United States authorities.

In the same breath, he has joined the Minister of Transport, the Hon. Parnell Charles, in questioning the seizure of an Air Jamaica 747 (jumbo) jet last Sunday night by U.S. Customs at the John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

Some 60 pounds of ganja was said to have been found on the plane and, similar to what happened last December, a fine of US\$240,000 was imposed.

Mr. Hylton said in an interview: "We feel that the seizure in New York on both occasions was totally unjustifiable because the baggage

was manifested. They were passengers' bags (and) we have identified the passengers to Customs and therefore we feel that the seizures were totally unreasonable and unjustified"

Mr. Hylton said the deposits have been made for both seizures, "but we are appealing both counts". The first appeal has already been lodged and the other is in the process of being prepared.

Unjust

He said the airline was expecting to hear from the U.S. Customs any time now.

The Air Jamaica President did not feel that there was any calculated attempt to have the national carrier "look in a bad way," be-

cause, he said, "all the carriers out of Jamaica have been found to carry ganja on their flights".

But, he maintains: "We think we are being harassed ... with special reference to the two New York seizures". He was not aware of any other carrier being harassed as Air Jamaica was, although, according to him, it was most definite that the other airlines had ganja problems.

Air Jamaica has passed on its views on the matter to the Government "and we hope that our Government will take it up with the Government of the U.S.," said Mr. Hylton.

On Monday, the Minister described the seizure as happening "under peculiar circumstances". He referred to the attitude of the U.S. as "unjust and embarrassing".

/9274

CSO: 3298/171

MANLEY WILLING TO DISCUSS ELECTION DATE WITH SEAGA

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] The President of the People's National Party, Mr Michael Manley, yesterday said an "unequivocal yes" to a suggestion that he and Prime Minister Edward Seaga should meet and enter into dialogue regarding the setting of a date for General Elections.

The suggestion had been made in an editorial in CATHOLIC OPINION, the church news-organ, as reported in the GLEANER on Monday. In a letter sent to the Editor of CATHOLIC OPINION yesterday, Mr Manley said: "The PNP is ready and willing to take part in the discussions you have proposed, and welcome the fact that you have made the call."

A PNP news release said Mr Manley wrote that he wished to state categorically that the PNP did not want to protest or stage peaceful demonstrations merely for the sake of holding protests.

"Because of this view, he welcomed an opportunity to enter into dialogue with the Prime Minister for the purpose of resolving the critical issue confronting our young democracy," the party release said.

Mr Manley told CATHOLIC OPINION he did not need "to repeat the numerous and cogent reasons why an election should be held as soon as possible and certainly not later than the summer of this year."

He said he considered it "an outrageous abuse of the democratic process that the people should continue to be deprived of their chance to exercise their franchise in a free and fair election, although six years, four months and 11 days have passed since they last had that opportunity."

He added: "It is equally bad that we should now have a Government without a mandate and a Parliament which is incapable of operating effectively the systems which are designed to ensure the accountability of the government."

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CSO: 3298/171

CHANGES MADE IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 8 Mar 87 p 1

[Text]

TWO AMBASSADORS who have served overseas for many years, have returned to Jamaica to fill senior posts as Directors General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry.

They are Miss Carman Y. Parris, C.D., formerly Ambassador to Belgium and the Mission to the European Economic Community and non-resident Ambassador to France, Luxembourg and Switzerland, and Mr. Louis H. Boothe, C.D., formerly Ambassador to the United Mexican States and non-resident Ambassador to Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and High Commissioner to Belize.

Miss Parris and Mr. Boothe assumed their new posts in Kingston on the February 2 and March 2 respectively, a news release from

the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Consequent on the above appointments, one Ambassador and one High Commissioner have been reassigned, and four new Heads of Overseas Missions have been named.

Mr. Leslie A. Wilson, C.D., former High Commissioner to Canada, has succeeded Miss Parris in Brussels. He assumed duties on February 17.

Appointments

Mr. Glalster G. Duncan, C.D., former Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, has been appointed Ambassador to the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, and non-resident Ambassador to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, the People's Republic of Hungary, Poland and Romania. Mr. Duncan assumed duties on February 1.

The following are new appointments —

Mr. Thomas A. Stimpson, Director of the Foreign Trade Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Boothe as Ambassador to the United Mexican States, the Central American Republics and High Commissioner to Belize.

Mr. Stimpson served as Counsel-

lor in the Jamaican Embassy in Mexico City between 1969 and 1972. He will assume duties shortly.

Miss M. Patricia Durrant, currently Deputy Permanent Representative to the Jamaican Mission to the United Nations in New York, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Duncan in Bonn. She will assume her new post on April 1.

Mr. H. Dale Anderson, formerly Deputy High Commissioner in London, replaces Mr. Leslie Wilson at Ottawa, Canada. He assumed duties on March 1.

Mr. Owen Singh, currently serving as Minister-Counsellor in the Mission in Brussels, has been appointed Ambassador to Ethiopia. He replaces Mr. Richard Pierce who has been reassigned to Headquarters, and will assume duties on April 4.

Other reassignments are being made to fill posts at headquarters and Overseas Missions.

An appointment will be made later in Caracas to fill the post created through the death of Mr. R.E.K. Phillips.

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CSO: 3298/171

PNP ACCUSES JLP OF 'POLITICAL MISUSE' OF FOOD AID

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Mar 87 p 1

[Text]

THE People's National Party has accused the Jamaica Labour Party of "blatant political misuse" of food donated to the June 1986 flood victims. But the Ministry of Social Security says that Ministry officers, with local help, were doing the distribution.

The PNP through General Secretary Dr. Paul Robertson had charged that the JLP had distributed the items donated by World Food Aid directly to Members of Parliament, instead of through bipartisan and charitable organisations such as the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and the Churches.

The PNP said it had been informed that the 50-lb. bags of soy fortified cornmeal which fetches a commercial price of \$150 a ton, was being sold in the western area of Kingston at \$25 a bag. It said the

terms and conditions of the food donated by the people of the USA are that it should not be sold or exchanged.

Dr. Robertson said he had been informed that the JLP Member of Parliament for East St. Ann, Mrs. Patsy Pink, received 540 bags of flour, 108 bags of milk powder, 220 cartons of cooking oil and an undisclosed quantity of mackerel. These, he said, were currently being stored in a Salvation Army warehouse in the parish.

The statement said similar quantities of food had been received by the JLP M.P. for West Central St. Catherine, Miss Enid Bennett, and by the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, M.P. for North Clarendon. It said the food for West Central St. Catherine was delivered to the Guanaboa Vale Police Station, while delivery to the North

Clarendon constituency was made to Acon Town and Peckham.

Dr. Robertson said that food was on its way from Kingston to a warehouse in Westmoreland, destined for Mr. Stafford Haughton, M.P. for N.W. Manchester, and to Dr. Sydney Beaumont, M.P. for Central Manchester.

The PNP also said that five parishes had been targeted for the food aid by the JLP under its programme. The parishes were St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Clarendon, St. Ann and St. Catherine.

In an unsigned statement the Ministry said:

"World Food gave items of basic food to be distributed in five parishes and Pedro in St. Ann to the victims of the June 1986 flood rains.

"Ministry of Social Security officers were asked to prepare lists of victims along with lists of suitable distribution centres in the respective parishes.

"These centres include market premises, Salvation Army centres, churches, police stations, wharves (Black River and Savanna-la-mar), shops, warehouses, community centres, etc.

"The food already delivered was transported from the Central Foods Organisation warehouse in Kingston to centres in each of the affected parishes.

"Officers of the Ministry of Social Security along with local help are responsible for distribution of the food.

"The distribution process has not yet been completed and many more areas are yet to receive their supply including some of those mentioned in the PNP statement."

3-MONTH DROUGHT AFFECTING ISLAND'S WATER SUPPLIES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Mar 87 pp 1, 3

[Article by Franklin McKnight]

[Text]

WATER TANKS ARE EMPTY, rivers have run dry, springs have disappeared, and taps have stopped issuing water in many parts of the country as a three-month dry period shows no sign of breaking.

The Meteorological Office, which is to issue a full statement today, said December to March is a typically low period of rainfall and this would not be considered by meteorologists a drought, though it would throw up quite a demand for water. Director Mr. John Blake said, "There is hope" as one of the peak periods of rainfall is April to May.

But communities are suffering now and the drought has shown up the poor water supply system in many areas. The situation drew expressions of concern from several Councillors at Parish Council general meetings yesterday.

People have been observed drawing water from muddy holes in the ground where animals are also put to water. Others are having to go longer distances for water. Minister of Utilities Parnell Charles yesterday visited St. Catherine at the start of visits to parishes where political representatives have said their constituents are suffering.

The National Water Commission (NWC) offices in rural areas are gearing to ask private owners of trucks (water tankers) to make them available, once funds and approval have been granted by the Commission.

In St. Elizabeth yesterday's Council meeting heard that, particularly in the south and southwest, conditions were very dry and people were suffering. Councillors were of the opinion that people with private trucks should be allowed to draw water from the New Forest well and sell truckloads to individuals, as is

being done by the NWC. The NWC has only seven trucks there, one of which is laid up.

In Clarendon, Council secretary-/manager John Lawrence said the drought was having a serious effect on all sections of the parish. Councillors reported that tanks were dry or needed repairs in such places as Morgans Pass, Thompson Town/Victoria and there was no supply at Fairborne. There was no water in the pipes at Reaches and Coffee Piece.

The Member of Parliament for Central Clarendon, Mike Henry, telegraphed the NWC saying: "It is very disheartening for me to report that rather than an improvement there has been a decrease in the supply of water to May Pen and its citizens..." He also called for improvements to several districts.

The hardest hit

Manchester appears to be the parish hardest hit by the drought. In areas of the south including Alligator Pond, people are taking water from contaminated springs and holes. At May Day tanks have run dry but there is some water in the

public system. Students at the May Day School are having to take water with them to school daily because the school's tank has run dry and there are delays in trucking water to the school.

South Manchester MP Lloyd Bent said he has embarked on a programme "to boost water supply to 15,000 affected residents in the drought-stricken area of South Manchester". He spoke of the cleaning of tanks, the distribution of new ones, and the bringing of five private trucks to complement the NWC fleet. He mentioned a dozen districts to benefit.

The NWC in Mandeville is reported to be waiting on the head office to give permission for the hiring of private trucks there to add to the fleet of six working trucks. Mayor Dean Peart has asked Councillors to give him the names of most badly affected districts so that proper representation can be made for relief.

In St. Ann, the Parish Council yesterday finalised communication to the Ministry of Public Utilities and Transport and to the NWC seeking a meeting. Mayor Renford Gentles said the water supply situation had been made worse by the fact that since the NWC take-over of the supplies, wayside tanks and small water supplies, from which no revenue was to be made, were not maintained. He said people who were not getting water yet were receiving ridiculous bills. "The NWC doesn't care whether you get water or not. As long as your house has a pipe you pay (rates)," the Mayor said. Mr. Gentles said the MP for NE St. Ann, Mr. Robert Marsh had made proposals to relieve the dis-

tricts of several districts by taking water from a JPS water line to its generator at Exchange.

Also in that parish the Ambiance/Jamaica Hotel, Runaway Bay, has been experiencing many problems with water because of a large take off by other properties. Managing Director Allan Gotting said he had tried everything and cannot get an assured supply for the 70-odd room hotel. Residents of Runaway Bay and Salem also complain of irregular supply.

In Trelawny several districts in the hilly south have been without supplies in their pipes for months and now that aquifers have sunk with the prolonged dry period people are taking water from holes and from culverts. There has been no water in Lichfield or All Sides and sections of Ulster Spring for several months and now that springs have dried up people have turned to dirty mud holes or drains in some places. Several calls left for Mr. Brascoe Lee, MP or from the NWC officer based in Montego Bay were not answered.

There are sketchy reports that there is crop loss in the dry plains of the south. A Gleaner correspondent this week reported from Bartons, near Old Harbour that people were now travelling several miles for water. The report said "many are using water unfit for human consumption. The situation is so bad that fowls and pigs are dying as are crops such as pepper and tomatoes."

Reports have also come in of contaminated water being used in North Clarendon and people stealing water from tanks of public institutions in Southwest St. Ann.

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CSO: 3298/171

BRIEFS

CARGO CONTROLS--As of today, all refrigerated cargo arriving in Jamaica will be faced with stricter control measures. On arriving in the island, this type of cargo will now be placed directly in a customs bonded warehouse. This requirement has been effected by amendment of the customs regulations in order to counteract smuggling and control illicit importations. Ministry paper 4, signed by Prime Minister Edward Seaga in January and tabled in Parliament in February, stipulates that if the import originates in the United States, it should be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the relevant authority. The cargo will only be released from the bonded warehouse if the importer has secured the permission of the local public health inspector or the doctor of the veterinary services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Customs. [Text]
[Kingston Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Mar 87 FL] /9274

CSO; 3298/171

TEXT OF SIMMONDS' NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO NATION

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 10 Jan 87 pp 3, 10

[Text of New Year's message by Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds broadcast on radio and television 1 January 1987]

[Text]

FELLOW CITIZENS, VISITORS, FRIENDS:

As this, the first day of 1987 unfolds, I take pleasure in wishing each and every one of you a very Happy and Successful New Year. New Year's Day is an occasion of great symbolism. People the world over ring out the Old Year, and bring in the New. Resolutions to give up bad habits, and cultivate good ones, are the order of the day. The poet tells us:

"OUR TODAYS AND YESTERDAYS,
ARE THE BLOCKS WITH WHICH WE BUILD".

FREEST NATION IN THE WORLD

Today, we start the year 1987 with a recognition we have shared for the past two years respectively with other freedom-loving countries - the title of FREEST NATION IN THE WORLD. Every year since the coming into operation of our new Independence Constitution, has been crowned with this feature. It is therefore entirely appropriate that our New Year's resolutions as a Nation should include a re-dedication to the ideals and aspirations enshrined in the constitution signifying our sovereign and inalienable freedom. To this end, let us, the people of St. Kitts and Nevis, re-affirm that our Nation is established on the belief in Almighty God and the inherent dignity of each individual.

In a world where civil and political rights are not always respected, we confidently bask in the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms exercised in a truly democratic society. THE CALYPSONIANS CERTAINLY EXERCISE THEM IN FULL MEASURE AT CARNIVAL. Let us give real meaning to our desire for the creation of a climate of economic well-being in the context of respect for law and order, and let us recommit ourselves to achieve our national objectives with a unity of purpose.

PROTECTION OF EMPLOYMENT ACT

1987 will be the first full calendar year in which my Government's passage into law of the Protection of Employment Act will be in force. This long-awaited legislation, which was submitted to both Employers' Associations and Trade Unions for their input and comments prior to being introduced into Parliament, prohibits by law for the first time the termination of employment on the grounds of political opinion or affiliations. No employee can lawfully be dismissed from his or her job because of absence from work in the performance of jury service as required by the Jury Act.

Women can no longer be lawfully dismissed from any job on grounds of pregnancy - and maternity leave is now guaranteed as a right to all women who have been employed for the minimum period specified. In addition, provision has at last been brought into legislative force for Severance Payments to be made to Redundant Workers. Employees have also been protected

where they have been made redundant as a result of the modernisation or mechanisation of the employer's business, or where the employer has re-organised his business to improve efficiency. These legal provisions are of utmost importance and relief to all of the workers of this country.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

It is timely to focus attention on this aspect of our development at this time when Government is poised to make public very shortly its National Development Plan for St. Kitts and Nevis for the period 1987-1991. Government has sought to ensure, in the ensuing period of implementation of its plan, that the people of this country, whose efforts will determine the productivity of our economy, are adequately safeguarded from unfair treatment in the workplace. As we pause at the threshold of this New Year, the pieces are steadily falling into place for the kind of forward movement for which we have been laying the groundwork ever since we came into Government.

We are now on target to increase our gross monetary receipts from tourism by the end of the National Development Plan period to the sum of over one hundred million East Caribbean Dollars by 1990. Already, between 1981 and 1986, the number of cruise ship passenger arrivals here have more than tripled, with the number of annual ship calls surpassing 100. During that same period, 1981 to 1986, the amount of money spent by tourists in St. Kitts and Nevis has doubled. It is projected that the unfolding of my Government's National Development Plan for 1987-1991, will see the number of stop-over tourists go past the figure of 100,000 by 1990, not including another 55,000 expected cruise ship arrivals.

SOUTH EAST PENINSULA PROJECT

Much of this accelerated progress in tourism will be given further impetus by the commencement this year of the construction of the South-East Peninsula Road Project. This project has been one of Government's prime development propositions, and its successful negotiation has taken years of patient but persevering effort by Government. Much more than a Road Programme, the South-East Peninsula Project while absorbing an initial expenditure of 20 million East Caribbean dollars, will stimulate significant hotel and marina development on both St. Kitts and Nevis, and lead to important employment generation in tourism and supporting areas.

Another major factor in this dramatic turnaround projected in the fortunes of our tourism earnings will be the provision of a complete sewerage system for the Frigate Bay Development area. At an estimated cost of 24 million East Caribbean Dollars, this system will prove an added incentive to new investment in hotels and condominiums in that area, while providing a more modern and hygienic system of sewerage disposal and better protection for the general environment.

NEVIS' RAPID STRIDES IN TOURISM

Nevis, too, will be making rapid strides in the expansion of its tourism infrastructure. A 9 million dollar airport extension at Newcastle is awaiting final approval in 1987 by the European Development Fund. With the prospect of improved communications to Nevis, several hotels will be constructed there during the National Development Plan period, including one of 100 rooms complete with an 18-hole Golf Course at Clarkes and Belmont, and a 12-acre condominium development at Shaw's Road. Another large hotel development planned for construction this year is a Villa-type resort at Newcastle with 56 rooms.

But if tourism is finally beginning to realise some of its potential as a prime earner of foreign exchange, it will, through linkages with other sectors of the economy help to generate earnings in those areas as well. My Government has committed itself from the very beginning to reduce dependence on the Sugar Industry and simultaneously stimulate growth in the other areas of the economy. It cannot be denied that we have been experiencing a significant measure of success in achieving these two objectives, as our growth in tourism and industry is clearly manifest for all to see.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

Within the Sugar Industry itself, we have improved efficiency and increased economies by our efforts at restructuring. Our efforts, however,

are at the mercy of two very uncertain and volatile factors over which we have no control. These are the world market price of sugar, and our external quota. It must be remembered that in 1975 the Government of that day took the unwise decision to voluntarily give up half of our United Kingdom quota in order to speculate on the world market. Many will recall that, in Opposition, we were very strong in our condemnation of that decision, which was still taken against our advice and that of some of the Labour Government's own advisors. Today we are still paying the price for that ill-advised policy of my predecessors, as we grapple with the uncertainty of our United States quota.

Just after the presentation of our 1987 Budget with its strong 1986 economic performance and its positive projections for 1987, the United States Government dropped the bombshell of our quota reduction by 5000 tons, i.e. 40% of our U.S. quota. Quite obviously we have to reassess our position and adjust our strategy. First we are making strong representation to the United States Government as we did in 1984 when our quota was first reduced. As a result of our efforts, when there were further quota cuts in 1985 St. Kitts and Nevis was spared. I have written to the United States Ambassador in Barbados and I have written to President Reagan himself, and I intend to take the case to a group of visiting U.S. Congressmen later this month in Barbados.

I mentioned the world market price of sugar as one of the adverse factors facing the local industry. It is, in the sense that while it is at the low level, about 0.6¢ U.S. per pound, there is no point in producing sugar to sell on the world market at this price of 0.6¢ per pound when our cost of production is about 25¢ U.S. per pound. Herein lies one of the answers to the criticism levelled at my Government, that whereas at one time the industry used to produce 50,000 tons, it is now producing less than 30,000 tons. Our total quota, U.K. and U.S., is now 22,500 tons. Clearly we would not be able to afford to sell 27,500 tons at the low world market price now existing. We cannot afford to spend money to make something that we cannot sell. Further, the available figures clearly show that although the number of acres reaped in 1983, 1984 and 1985 exceeded the number of acres reaped in 1979, the yield of cane in 1979 was 100,000 tons more than in 1983, 1984 or 1985 because of adverse weather conditions in the latter years.

SUGAR QUOTA DEDUCTION EFFECTS

Let us examine the effects of the quota reductions: The quota reduction to 12,500 short tons in 1984/1985 had a severe impact on sugar income which decreased by US\$1,440,000 or EC\$3,859,000 representing roughly 17 percent of gross income from sugar or 29 percent of the proceeds from the sale of US quota sugar. The further reduction of the US quota by 5000 tons, as proposed for 1987, is likely to have a more severe impact on the Sugar Industry, threatening its survival, as well as on the economy of St. Kitts and Nevis as a whole.

The likely consequences could be:

- (i) A substantial decrease in revenue to the Sugar Industry and loss of Foreign Exchange in the amount of US\$2.27 million or EC\$6.13 million. This reduction is expected to further increase the losses of the Sugar Industry.
- (ii) Reduction in the level of employment in the industry by about 17 percent, as crop period will be reduced. This could obviously have serious repercussions on earnings and the general livelihood of sugar workers.
- (iii) Loss in revenue to Port Authority in the amount of EC\$100,000.
- (iv) Decline in revenue is expected to lead to a slow down in economic activity in the commercial sector and consequently affect the level of growth in the economy.
- (v) Loss of revenue to Government from sugar funds, in the amount of EC\$330,336.
- (vi) An increase in the unit cost of sugar production by about five percent.

Let me stress that a reduction in the amount of sugar sold will cause less money to be deposited in the reserve funds on which we have been depending for several years now to provide various wage increases and bonuses for the sugar workers. In spite of these difficulties which are not of our own making, there is every intention to endeavour in 1987 to maintain wages and regular bonuses at their present level.

PROPOSAL TO SUGAR INDUSTRY

Government further intends to suggest to the Industry, a proposal which will help the workers to increase their weekly take-home pay based upon productivity, and at the same time help to improve the efficiency of the Industry itself and therefore contribute in some measure towards preserving it. The proposal is that instead of the incentive bonus after Easter, which many workers do not earn, we will introduce an incentive bonus based on a level of productivity to be determined, from the start of the crop, and paid with the weekly pay packet from the first wages paid. You would not therefore have to wait until after Easter to earn extra money, i.e. in addition to the normal weekly pay packet based on the rates established for the crop. This would not affect or displace the other regular bonuses, but it could help to improve the supply of cane to the Factory and hence reduce some of its operational cost.

In the meantime, Government still intends to pursue the plan to diversify the Industry itself in the following ways:

- (1) Produce electricity from bagasse.
- (2) Produce alcohol in one form or another, from molasses or cane juice.
- (3) Produce specialty sugars packaged for the higher priced health-food market.

Let us however, be realistic, and accept the inescapable fact that the future of this country lies in our ability to reduce our dependence on sugar and strengthen our thrust in tourism, industry and non-sugar agriculture.

DIVERSIFIED ECONOMIC FOUNDATION

Our country is in the fortunate position that my Government has been pursuing this plan of action since 1980, so that we are not now scratching around as a people without hope, but rather we are well on the way to achieving our objective of a better life for all based on a diversified economic foundation. Our National Development Plan exemplifies this approach, and has given urgency to the implementation of a series of multiple programmes and projects in non-sugar agriculture, in both St. Kitts and Nevis. At least 20 different programmes have been compiled, studied and have received firm commitments for funding in 1987. These range from crop production projects to livestock development and fisheries, among others.

Central to the success of these schemes is the renovation and upgrading of the Public Markets in St. Kitts and Nevis. The Sandy Point Public Market is already well on the way to the completion of its reinstatement as a major retail market serving the areas of Half Way Tree, Sandy Point, Newton Ground and St. Pauls. Equally important is the small Farming Equipment Pool, funding of which has already started, with tractors, other machinery and tools already purchased. The proper implementation envisaged by my Government for the non-sugar agricultural sector is designed to achieve the two-pronged effect of substantially cutting food imports and also of providing the necessary, remunerative support systems for the blossoming tourist industry, i.e. helping us to earn money by feeding our tourists with local food. To achieve this objective, Government has identified a number of incentive measures which we will institute to stimulate and encourage improved and increased production in agriculture and fisheries in 1987.

As far as the expansion of light industry is concerned, a key focus of the National Development Plan will centre on the establishment early in the New Year of an Industrial Development Corporation, to institute a higher level of technical, as distinct from bureaucratic investigation of new projects, and the essential feature of monitoring the performance of approved industries. It is also envisaged that the establishment of

an Industrial Development Corporation will lead to effective liaison between Government and other Agencies to reduce red tape and expedite the processing of desirable projects. The success of the anticipated expansion in Industry will depend to a large extent on the rapid implementation of a comprehensive Electricity Development Programme, coupled with a significant telecommunications service.

Happily, both of these objectives will be substantially realised during the course of this year, with the first phase of an Electrification Action Plan to improve our electricity supply to be launched in a week's time, on the 8th January. In addition to the 2,900 kilowatts of power installed and serving Nevis, Government will acquire an additional 3,500 kilowatt generator for the Needsmust Power Station in St. Kitts, thanks to the provision of almost 4 million dollars for this purpose through the British Development Division.

Only this week I laid the cornerstone for the new building also at Needsmust signifying SKANILL'S readiness to install in St. Kitts and Nevis the most modern and technologically advanced telecommunications network in the Caribbean. SKANTEL will also be playing a major role in the South-East Peninsula Road Project, in instituting its advanced fibre optics to serve that entire development area as fast as it opens up.

OTHER DEVELOPMENT IN NEVIS

In 1987, Nevis can look forward to significant progress in infra-structural development. The funds have already been provided to expand electricity service to selected areas. New Wells will be commissioned, and distribution lines installed in the Windward area as far as Jessups. Wells at Hamilton to supply Bath Village and South Charlestown and at Stoney Hill to supply Gingerland and Charlestown will also be commissioned in 1987.

Social services in Nevis will also receive a boost in 1987 with the introduction of dental service at Gingerland Health Centre, significant repairs to the Theatre at the Alexandra Hospital, and the start of a School-feeding Programme at St. Thomas' School.

In St Kitts construction of the St Johnston Village School is due to start this month,

ACTION PLAN FOR PROGRESS

All of this points to the fact that in spite of difficulties and setbacks, /the action plan for progress in our twin-island federation continues to unfold and become a reality./ [portion in slantlines in caps and underlined] If we are to tackle and overcome the challenges we face, a concerted and sustained drive by all concerned will be necessary. These are not the times for non-cooperation and obstructionism, the energies of all of our people must be given productive release to the benefit of individuals and country alike.

Our country is too much beset by rumour-mongering. We are a free country and proud of it. This freedom should, however, not cause us to sink to the propagation of downright lies merely to score political points. The calculated programme of character assassination of public officials, unjustly, without substantiation or basis in truth demeans us all and does our country a disservice. Our freedom to dissent is a bulwark of our Democracy; let us use it constructively, without malice or rancour to build our Nation and not to destroy.

Fellow Citizens, before us lies a vista of opportunity and challenge. We have not a moment to lose, if we are to seize and convert these timely initiatives into the inspirational momentum we have envisioned. Let us, on this New Year's Day 1987, strengthen our resolve to make this year a year of destiny.

LABOR PARTY HOLDS PUBLIC MEETINGS; GOVERNMENT SLAMMED

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 10 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

The St. Kitts Nevis Labour Party held the first public meetings for the New Year on Sunday last, January 4.

The Party held two successful meetings for that day - one in St. Pauls Village at 4:30 p.m. and another at the junction of Cunningham Street and Central Street in Basseterre, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Both meetings were chaired by the Chairman of the Party Comrade Charles Mills.

At the St. Pauls meeting Comrade Mills took the opportunity to welcome back to the community Dr. Denzil Douglas who returned home in July last year after qualifying as a medical practitioner at the University of the West Indies.

He described Dr. Douglas as a man who has remained loyal to his roots.

He also used the occasion to extend New Year's greetings - on behalf of the Party - to fellow comrades, their families, friends, well-wishers of the organisation and citizens in general.

The same was done at the Basseterre meeting which attracted a huge and

enthusiastic crowd made up mainly of young people.

This meeting lasted over three hours with the Comrade Leader, Lee Moore being the last of the speakers.

The other speakers were Comrades Fitzroy Bryant, St. John Payne and Dr. Henry 'Stogumber' Browne, Deputy Leader of the Party.

The main issues tackled were - the incompetence, spite, vindictiveness, short-sightedness, greed, callous indifference, lack of leadership and alleged corrupt practices of the Simmonds government.

The speakers also examined at length the thrust of the calypsonians at the just concluded senior calypso finals show which was said to have been boycotted by a number of the government Ministers including the Minister of Carnival Sydney Morris and the Deputy Prime Minister and Tourism Minister Michael Powell.

Comrade Payne took some time out to respond to some of what he called "blatant lies" and "cheap propaganda" in the Prime Minister's New Year's Day address.

He called on the Prime Minister to set an example and let the government and party he heads first stop its campaign of character assassination of its opponents, before he can invite others to assist in building a healthy political climate on the island.

Comrade Browne like Comrade Bryant spent much of his time on the South East Peninsula Project announced recently by the Prime Minister.

He told the meeting that the government had no lands of its own at the Peninsula.

Comrade Browne said that the government had given a mandate for 25 years over the South East peninsula lands to a firm called Keystone International based in Anguilla.

That private firm, he said, had turned around and sold the said lease to another private foreign concern - with full knowledge of the government - for a fantastic price of U.S\$500,000.

He then invited the government to challenge the authenticity of his accusation. He challenged the Prime Minister to a tv debate on the issue.

In winding up the meeting Comrade Moore summarised the points raised by the earlier speakers and invited all parties with a common interest in removing the PAM/NRP government from office by constitutional means to join forces with the Labour Party.

Comrade Moore said that what the Labour Party had said all along, everyone was now beginning to say.

The government had described Labour Party spokesmen as misleaders, rejected politicians and prophets of gloom and doom.

But Dr. Somersall had now said the same thing.

Vance Amory in Nevis was now saying the same thing.

And all the calypsonians in the recent Carnival had said the same thing.

Everyone is now agreed:-

- That to talk of progress in St. Kitts, Somebody is fooling somebody;

- that life for the poor is hard as rock;

- that the level of unemployment is a scandal;

- that the government has taxed the people to the point where they can't buy proper food to eat;

- that the government has defaulted on the promises it made;

- that government ministers have squandered the public's money;

- that the said Ministers have been busy flying all over the world and have failed to address the country's problems

- that the government has run down the services of the country while burdening the citizens with a massive debt to repay;

- that there is neither justice nor equality in the land and fear stalks the land;

- that the lot of the working people is miserable;

- that the upshot of government policies is that the drug culture has flourished in the country;

- that there is a severe problem of mental illness affecting our young

people about which the government is doing nothing.

Comrade Moore concluded:-

"The Labour Party is ready, willing and able to take up again the mantle of government and to make ST.KITTS RISE AGAIN WITH LABOUR"

/9274

CSO: 3298/174

OPPOSITION ORGAN REPORTS STATEMENTS BY PAM EX-OFFICIAL

Radio Interview 'Blackout'

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 17 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

Listeners to the government controlled radio station ZIZ received the shock of their lives on Monday afternoon of this week, February 16, when suddenly that same afternoon they were informed by the female announcer on the radio that because of "technical problems" the programme 'CARIBBEAN TODAY' aired Monday to Friday each week at 5.30 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. could not be heard for that day.

But according to very reliable information the programme was not aired because of specific instructions given by the Simmonds government not to put on the programme.

The announcer did however state that the CANA BUSINESS REPORT usually heard at 5.45 p.m. each day would be aired and that programme was in fact broadcast. But the CANA news report for that day was not aired at all, neither at 5.30 or 10.30.

We are also reliably informed that the reason behind the scrapping of the programme for Monday was that it included an interview with Dr. Allan Somersall.

The programme was however aired on other regional airwaves and for the benefit of the general public in St. Kitts Nevis we publish the CANA interview with Dr. Somersall herewith:-

Interviewer - "With some hash remarks over the degree to which the government of St. Kitts have lost favour with public opinion in the country, a former ruling party front liner is stepping up criticisms of his previous political colleagues.

"Dr. Allan Somersall quit the Peoples Action Movement last November after 15 years as a leading member. Now he says the great expectations that accompanied the party into office 6 years ago have all come tumbling down."

Dr. Somersall - "The captain has fallen asleep and the other members of the crew recognising he is fast asleep have each seized an opportunity to take a pair of binoculars to look out unto the horizon for some land of opportunity that could attract them flowing with their milk and honey.

"And have since tried to steer the ship into the direction of the land that they can see their own way, while in all this confusion the ship itself is heading for an iceberg.

"The iceberg is of course total economic fragmentation within the country. We have seen a serious financial crisis; we have seen a poor international image because of the widespread disenchantment in the society and its consequences.

"I see myself as the person sitting next door in a ship sending a signal to say 'watch out the iceberg is ahead.'

"And unless somebody or somebodies on board the ship, as I say come forward, and put the crew in their proper place, this ship of state is heading to some serious, 'serious problems'.

Interviewer - "Dr. Allan Somersall, a former colleague of Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds of St. Kitts Nevis, who has opted to become a strident government critic."

Dr. Somersall held a public meeting at Greenlands Park, Basseterre on Sunday night, at which he launched a

scathing attack on the government comparing the ship of the state to that of the ill-fated TITANIC which sank in 1912 taking with it hundreds of souls including the captain and crew.

He accused the government of suffering from division, lack of leadership, incompetence, conflict of interest, greed and callous indifference citing examples as he went along.

Dr. Somersall spoke for about two hours, addressing the mammoth crowd on hand drawn from all sections of the Basseterre community and the rural districts.

Prior to the public meeting Dr Somersall had earlier issued a challenge to Prime Minister Simmonds inviting him to a public debate on ZIZ Radio and T.V. on Monday night, February 16 - the topic:

"This government is suffering from division, lack of leadership, incompetence, conflict of interest, greed or callous indifference".

We are reliably informed that Dr. Somersall has to date received no response from Dr. Simmonds on the matter.

Somersall's Explanation

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 18 Feb 87 pp 3, 4

[Article "Dr Somersall Speaks Out Again—Here's My Position"]

[Text] So many have asked and so many more have wondered why, after all these years, I should take a stand publicly against the existing government? More importantly, why now and what do I hope to achieve? Well, here is my honest answer for all to read. All else is speculation.

Why?

1. I promised from the political platform many times over the years that if ever this group of politicians for whom I was campaigning took the reins of

government and ceased to serve the best interests of the people, I would certainly help to remove them. My public expression is the fulfillment of that promise!

2. I wrote numerous articles in the DEMOCRAT newspaper for many years, expressing in clear terms what I believe in and the direction I see for the country. The present performance of this government is contrary to what I have publicly stood for these many years. My public expression is a reaffirmation of what I believe!

3. I am free. Unfortunately, everything in our small country is politicised. People become politicised. Thus, many who would speak out are deterred by fear of the repercussions. I have no such fear. This is a voice for the disappointed, disillusioned and disenchanted public that remains silent?

4. I believe in principle more than I believe in men or means. It has nothing to do with any "big job" that I wanted or was refused. It has nothing to do with my listening to other party propaganda. It has nothing to do with distance. This has everything to do with conscience!

5. I consider the members of government a conglomeration of "strange bed-fellows" who struggle to stay together for mutual convenience. I need no such convenience and so I have chosen to stand apart. This is democracy at work!

So What?

6. I aim to restrain the government from any excesses to which any public officials may be prone. It is time to shape up or ship out!

7. I intend to awaken the conscience and increase the awareness of the public at large so that they will ask the right questions.

8. I hope to provide a milieu for others to speak out, to stand up and be counted. I plan to join other Concerned Citizens in their united action. It is time for protest.

9. I must play my part for conscience sake, as I have for fifteen years, to safeguard our precious country and its people who love it so dearly, from those who would exploit it for their own personal ends. It is time for principle.

10. I take full responsibility for my own statements but I am not alone. I am grateful for the encouragement and support that I have already received from other concerned citizens.

Leadership

Our people still look for strong leadership. Men and women of vision and integrity must now stand forward to give clear direction without compromise. Putting selfish interests aside, they must work together for the common good. By their personal example, through hard work and with adequate training for

the task of nation-building, they can create the blueprint and the atmosphere for productivity. Investment and opportunity are right within our reach, if our vision is clear and our hands devoid of grease. This could translate into jobs, into bread and butter, into development and a better life for our children,

Potential

I believe in our people, I believe in us. I believe in fairness, justice and the public right. The resources at our disposal lie dormant--buried beneath the divisions, the insularity, the incompetence and even beneath the indifference and greed. O what latent potential can be tapped! We have land, we have people, we have amenities, we have friends in the right places. Most of all, we have clean hands and faith to move mountains.

I appeal to the nation to judge those who rule and those who would rule. Consider the possibility of the best of our people--from PAM and from Labour, from St Kitts, and from Nevis, from town and from country, from home and abroad--united: all concerned about the common good, the public right and the next generation. "With malice toward none, with fairness for all" would be their creed,

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CSO: 3298/174

POLICE CHIEF DENIES MISTREATMENT OF POLITICAL FIGURE

Labor Organ's Charges

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 17 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

Cleon Walwyn, leader of the new Freedom Express political party, launched here two Sundays ago, was this week hospitalized following an incident at the Cayon Police Station in which he was allegedly brutally beaten by a Police officer, dumped in a cell and left unattended.

The incident is reported to have taken place around mid-day on Wednesday, January 14.

According to Walwyn he was speaking to another Police officer inside the Police Station when he was set upon by the young police constable.

Walwyn claims that the policeman boxed him, kicked him, spat in his face, among other things and then dragged him in a cell and locked him away.

He also reports that the constable told him during the beating that if he didn't leave Morris alone he would see to it that he get a jail.

The constable, named as P.C. Tyson by Walwyn, is said to be related by marriage to the Hon. Sydney Morris, the Parliamentary Representative of the area.

It is understood that Walwyn was formally arrested later and charged with assaulting and beating P.C. Tyson.

Walwyn's Freedom Express party had planned to hold a public meeting that same evening in the East Basseterre area.

His mother, Mrs. Bernadette Lee of Lower Cayon is reported to have made several efforts to get in touch with him but was prevented from seeing him by the Police.

Around 5 o'clock the same afternoon, Walwyn was transported from the Cayon Police Station to the Basseterre Police Station.

When his Counsel Mr. Lee Moore made representations on his behalf, he was assured that he would be released on bail. Later, however, objection to bail was said to have been raised from higher quarters.

At about 10 p.m. his mother turned up at the Basseterre Police Station with a medical doctor requesting that her son be examined by him.

When the doctor was allowed to see Walwyn he was said to be in bad shape, spitting blood and passing blood in his stool, according to reports.

He also appeared to have suffered injuries to his shoulders, chest and other parts of the body.

At the request of the doctor he was transferred to the Joseph N. France General Hospital where he remained as a patient until yesterday morning when he was discharged by the hospital authorities.

During his stay in the Hospital he was put under tight police security.

The Police Commissioner however has strongly denied the allegations that Walwyn was beaten by the Police and that he suffered from any form of bleeding.

He confirmed that Walwyn had been arrested and charged with assaulting and beating the Police officer.

He also stated that he intends to seek further medical advice - concerning Walwyn's mental condition with a view to his fitness to plead to the various charges brought against him.

Before Walwyn's release from hospital yesterday morning his counsel Mr. Moore again approached the Police about bail.

Shortly after his discharge from the hospital he was released on bail.

Commissioner's Response

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 17 Jan 87 p 12

[Text] The following is the text of a Press Release issued here today by The Royal St Christopher and Nevis Police Force:

It has come to the attention of The Commissioner of Police that a report, apparently originating in the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis against the Police was broadcast over Radio Antilles News on Thursday afternoon.

According to that report, one Cleon Walwyn was said to be suffering an upstairs and downstairs bleeding condition after allegedly being beaten in Police custody,

The Radio Antilles Report went on to allege that a medical doctor in St Kitts had confirmed that Walwyn was then a patient at the J. N. France General Hospital in St Kitts.

The Report is coloured by details of Cleon Walwyn's recent emergence as a political spokesperson critical of the Government.

The Commissioner of Police, after making due enquiries into the said allegations against the Police, has denounced the report as being false, subversive and mischievous.

The report is calculated to expose the Force to public hatred and contempt, yet no opportunity whatever was afforded to the Police to comment on such a prejudicial allegation, before it was broadcast to the entire Eastern Caribbean.

The Commissioner of Police wished to urge that it is in the interest of ethics and common decency that allegations of this kind are reported honestly, impartially, without bias and by persons who have no interest of a sinister or indirect nature to serve.

Walwyn was discharged from observation at the hospital earlier today without any medical doctor here confirming either upstairs or downstairs bleeding. Walwyn is reported to have refused any medical examination at the hospital, and to have even ordered doctors out of his hospital room.

Had any approach been made to seek the reaction of the Police Authorities to this allegation, it would have been made known that Walwyn was on Wednesday

this week apprehended within the precincts of the Cayon Police Station, where he is reported to have interrupted the taking down of a report being made against him by the Headmaster of the Cayon High School.

The Headmaster was seeking Police protection after Walwyn reportedly entered the School premises during School hours and threatened to kill the Headmaster.

Walwyn is further reported to have assaulted and beaten the Police Officer at Cayon Police Station who was taking down the report against him.

Earlier on Wednesday, Walwyn had entered the Magistrate's Courtroom, and had pointed a gun at a female clerk of the Court, who became hysterical, according to information received. Rescuing Police reportedly managed to disarm him, whereupon the gun was found to be imitation firearm, and an information was laid against him.

The Commissioner of Police intends to seek further medical advice concerning Walwyn's mental condition, with a view to forming an opinion as to his fitness to plead to the various charges pending against him.

Police Headquarters
Basseterre,
St Kitts.

Friday 16th January, 1986.

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CSO: 3298/174

PAM OFFICIALS ADDRESS PARTY'S 22D ANNUAL CONVENTION

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 28 Feb 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] In its highly successful 1984 Manifesto, the Co-Ruling People's Action Movement pointed the way forward to improving the quality of life for all in this country. Never before in the history of these islands had we seen such progress, peace and harmony, joy and happiness, and freedom. By an overwhelming majority, PAM's sterling record of achievements between 1980-84 has earned PAM a clear Mandate to consolidate this freedom and stability.

At the 22nd Annual Convention of PAM, held on Sunday, PAM's Leaders gave a clear demonstration of their continuing commitment to do the people's bidding. The Convention recognised that the challenges of this decade require forward planning. One theme that was repeated by speaker after speaker was that there must be constant upgrading and expansion, and constant maintenance of existing facilities and utilities not only to meet present demand, but also to support economic expansion and diversification.

In keeping, therefore, with its promise to provide proper service to the population, PAM took the opportunity provided by the gathering of the Party faithful from all parts of the island, to announce a series of major new projects which will provide significant relief to the people of this country.

Central to these new projects is the improvement of water supplies and the construction of new water reservoirs throughout the country to meet projected needs and provide storage to new areas. Prime Minister Simmonds emphasised the importance of the need for laying a solid foundation and urged the Convention to bear in mind that sometimes we can become victims of our own success. Government's job of keeping pace with the progress of development becomes more challenging because we have grown so well and so rapidly over the years.

However, the Government has heard the complaint about the need for a better water supply and Government has responded. Close to \$800,000 has been provided by the Ministry of Finance for the improvement of water supplies in St Kitts in the immediate future. Of this sum, the amount of \$305,000 will go to upgrading the water supply for the Cayon area. Another \$229,000 will be spent to install a pump and the necessary lines to improve the water supply in the Lodge area, where a reservoir will also be built at a further cost of \$54,000.

In addition, the Camps area will receive an investment of \$82,970 to improve its water supply, while Stonefort will get \$67,660 to make more water available.

In Molineaux, only a small amount of \$13,200 is required for the improvement to the water distribution there. All of these water projects are to come on stream at the same time in 1987. But already most of the work has already been done to expand the water supply in the area from Saddlers to Dieppe Bay, which is undergoing significant improvement. Prime Minister Simmonds announced that within two weeks time the water supply between Saddlers and Dieppe Bay will be properly addressed.

Another very important announcement was made by Mr Roosevelt Caines, PAM's Representative for Constituency No 6, which includes Newton Ground, St Pauls, Dieppe Bay, Parsons Ground and Saddlers. Mr Caines, who is the Special Assistant in the Ministry of Agriculture with responsibility for Rural Development, said that some 30 low cost houses will be erected in his area, along with a brand new playing field and a Small Farmers' Unit in Newton Ground. Mr Caines referred to a recent visit to St Pauls by Prime Minister Simmonds, who toured the area on foot to examine sites already earmarked for development. Mr Caines said it was "absolute rubbish" a report published in the Labour Spokesman, which alleged falsely that Prime Minister Simmonds was accompanied on his tour of St Pauls by van-loads of Security Men. Mr Caines said that he and the Prime Minister walked alone through the village.

Prime Minister Simmonds also spoke about Government's programme to build another 500 low income houses this year. Readers are asked to note that Phase 2 of PAM's low income housing programme has as its goal 500 new units within this five-year term. If these houses are built this year, it goes without saying that PAM will be well ahead of its timetable of development in yet another area of endeavour.

It was reliably estimated that more than 1,200 persons attended PAM's 22nd Convention. By all accounts, it was an exciting Convention, a stimulating event which provided much food for thought and much substance and solidarity. It was an impressive show of strength and party unity, which was fostered by the introduction of a brand-new format in two parts, the first of which consisted of a Convention Caucus which took place from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. (See Editorial).

A powerful and studious address was delivered by the elegant and polished Guest Speaker, Mr Karl Hudson-Phillips, Q.C., the Deputy Political Leader of the Ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr Hudson-Phillips recalled his first visit to St Kitts in 1967, when the voices of freedom in this land were jailed and victimised by the brutal Labour regime. He went on to make the point that men like Robert Bradshaw made their contribution after World War II, but were unable to accept the rise of young intellectuals (like those of PAM) and their burning desire to force the pace of economic and social development.

Mr Hudson-Phillips went on to trace the development in his country of the Opposition to the entrenched Government of 30 years of the counterpart to the defeated Labour Party. He spoke about the formation of the Democratic Action Congress in Tobago under Prime Minister Robinson; the development of the United

Labour Front under the Hon Basdeo Panday; and he gave the background to his efforts to form the National Land Tenants and Ratepayers Association and its emergence as the basis of his own Organisation for National Reconstruction.

It was a Statesmanlike address, and it provided sound advice for a balanced approach to be followed by any Government succeeding one that was long entrenched. He then explained his Government's commitment to regaining Trinidad and Tobago's rightful place in the regional integration movement.

He gave comparisons between the governing coalition in St Kitts and Nevis and the governing coalition in Trinidad and Tobago. He said he takes courage from the manner in which our Government of PAM and NRP has confounded the skeptics who seven years ago, said it could not last three months. He ended a major contribution by giving assurances of cooperation between Trinidad and Tobago and St Kitts and Nevis on a Governmental level.

Other speakers on the platform included PAM's Representatives from the various Constituencies. Their contributions were appropriately preceded by a moving Prayer rendered by Miss Ursula Tyson of East Basseterre.

Opening Speaker was the Hon Roy Jones, substituting for the Hon Richard Caines who was suffering from a sore throat. Mr Jones called for greater understanding from members of the Party for their Leaders.

The popular and dynamic Irvin Sweeney elaborated on his theme that the country has begun to feel progress and there must be no turning back.

The Hon Constance Mitcham asked why, when 119 tourist ships are coming here this season, when 200 houses have been built by PAM, when 500 more are to be put down this year, when several hundred new jobs have been created, when hotels and condominiums are being built, Labour wants to make mischief.

The very important contribution of Mr Roosevelt Caines has already been given prominence.

Convention Chairman the Hon Hugh Heyliger stressed throughout his Chairmanship that the Ship of State is in good hands and capable hands and "this ship ain't going to run into no iceberg."

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CSO: 3298/174

COMPTON ANNOUNCES PROJECTS TO SPUR JOBS, ECONOMY

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 10 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

PRIME Minister John Compton last night promised St. Lucians another "exciting" year and announced a range of Government projects to spur employment scheduled to start during the year.

Speaking on television in what was billed as a "State of the Nation" address, Compton also referred indirectly to the general election that must be held this year and told his listeners that they could either "go forward confidently into a brighter future" or hesitate and turn back and like Lot's wife "turn our progress into a pillar of barren salt on which nothing will grow."

Compton looked at the performance of the Government and country since his 1982 return to power and pointed to the "economic turnaround" which he said was in evidence during last year and particularly during the recent Christmas and New Year season.

He warned that this had not come overnight, but rather by "hard work and careful planning" since 1982.

Said Compton: "Whatever may have been our accomplishments during the past year, these were made possible by a united and determined people led by a united and determined government whose leadership and example has brought the best out of our people. The Government throughout has worked as a team. This has been the secret of our success."

Compton looked at the performances of some of the economic indicators. He said banana production last year, which reached an all-time record of 112,000 tons had brought in \$54 million more in revenue than it did in the previous year, or \$104 million more than it did in 1982. Tourism had recorded an average occupancy of 85 percent compared with 37 percent in 1982.

Said the Prime Minister of tourism: "...the benefits were generally shared. The hotels, the restaurants, the taxi drivers, the tour operators — all have benefitted, and as an indication of confidence in the future, all the major hotels have, during

1986, carried out either expansion or major improvements to their facilities..."

Compton said 500 new jobs were created at the hotels and tourist-related facilities during the year, and "more are yet to come."

He also reflected on advances in health and education but warned that the increasing population (3,916 babies born in 1986) was "the most difficult problem which we now face and will face in the future."

Looking ahead into 1987, Compton predicted that weather permitting the year would be the best ever for St. Lucia with the banana industry, and agriculture generally playing the leading role. Tourism was also expected to flourish with two major hotels — one on the Rodney Bay causeway and the other at Honeymoon Beach — expected to begin construction.

Compton said much of the 152,000 square feet of factory space provided at Vieux Fort was being occupied and one of two factories leased to manufacturers from South Korea had only recently begun operations with an employment potential of 150. Demand for factory space in Castries could not now be met he said, and soil investigations would be carried out next week at Cul de Sac to see whether factories could be built there.

Other projects announced for the year include:

- a \$60 million expansion programme by St. Lucia Electricity Services including construction of a new power station at Choc;
- actual drilling at the Sulphur Springs geothermal project "within the next four to six weeks;
- a water relief supply at Millet to provide 500,000 gallons a day;
- the building of 50 new homes at Reduit and the availability of lots at Morne Giraud, Ciceron, Patience, La Ressource and Derriere Morne, while three prefabricated houses from Canada will be erected in Castries to see whether they are acceptable in terms of quality and price;
- the second phase of the Pointe Seraphine complex to include a craft market and small boutiques and site preparation for a new Vigie Airport terminal building.

Declared Compton: "All in all it will be an exciting year for all of us. Whether the goals which we set for ourselves are achieved will depend on our continued commitment and dedication to the development of our country. It will depend on self-discipline and restraint by all. It will depend on continued confidence in our country by investors both local and foreign. It depends on the maintenance of our political and industrial stability which has been the bedrock of our recovery from the disaster of the 1979-82 period...."

GOVERNMENT, UNIONS REMAIN AT ODDS OVER BACK-PAY ISSUE

Civil Service Association Views

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 10 Jan 87 p 3

[Text]

COMPUTER problems at the Ministry of Finance caused many public servants to receive only a fraction of their backpay last month.

But Director of Finance, Dwight Venner, says that the Ministry has taken note of the situation and is doing everything to ensure that the outstanding amounts are added to the public servants' salaries for this month (January).

He said that the amount already paid was all that could have been managed by a less efficient computer in use when the payments were first being calculated.

Venner also noted that there were other related problems which included over or under payment to certain people. He said that this, along with calculating the balance of the money to be paid out, was proving to be a tedious exercise for the Ministry of Finance, but he also assured that the rectification process was being pursued with urgency.

Public servants are

claiming 20 months retroactive payments which they say accumulated as a result of the late implementation of their 1983-86 collective agreement with Government. Government has however agreed to pay only 75 per cent of the amount. The unions have insisted that all the money must be paid.

Venner also pointed out that negotiation on substantive points for a new collective agreement would start on January 20. But in an interview with THE VOICE, Civil Service Association (CSA) President, David Demarque, said that fresh talks would commence on that date only

If the public sector unions are able to settle some worrying issues arising out of the expired contract.

Demarque said that contrary to talk in certain quarters that the old agreement had been honoured in full by Government, there were a number of clauses which were not implemented. The public sector unions want to clarify this, as well as several other procedural matters, before jumping into negotiations for the new contract, he said.

He was also hopeful that the Committee of Trade Unions would meet the Government negotiating team sometime next week to continue exploratory discussions which would then set the stage for dialogue on the new three-year agreement.

The CSA President reiterated that the public sector unions intended to submit moderate and negotiable wage proposals for consideration by Government. The unions were also willing to observe a nine-month wage freeze in the interest of the island's economy, Demarque stressed.

Compton's Case

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 10 Jan 87 pp 8, 13

[Text]

PRIME Minister John Compton last month broke the Government's silence on the back-pay issue with the public service unions in a major address to the House of Assembly.

At the time, the Prime Minister was piloting a resolution seeking permission to borrow from commercial banks to pay the \$1.5 million in back pay he says is the Government's final

offer to the unions.

The Unions have been claiming 20 months retroactive pay based on their last collective agreement with the Government. But the Government says that it cannot pay the whole amount estimated at around \$3 million.

In the address to the House Compton sought for the first time to put forward a

detailed case for the Government's stand. Today we present the final in a two-part edited version of that address. [First part unavailable]

"The Government has responsibilities not only to the public servants. The Government has responsibilities to the public, the Government has international responsibilities. These must be met, but do we meet them? We cannot. We cannot even meet responsibilities to the ordinary man. We give income tax rebates to persons who pay too much tax. People have been given that slip to get back their income tax; for months, sometimes years, they go to the Income Tax Department and they cannot get it. Why? The money has to be kept to pay salaries. Little contractors on the road work for Government, for years having little slips for clearance of a landslide. Go to the treasury, they cannot get it. Money has to be kept there to pay salaries, because the money is not coming in fast enough to meet the \$7,000,000 a month. These are the facts, and all of us have got to face it. How do we finance it? By borrowing, and borrowing and borrowing.

"In 1983/84 we could not meet certain obligations, I used my personal relationship with Prime Minister (Lynden) Pindling (of the Bahamas) to borrow \$500,000 from the Central Bank of Bahamas. This has not been paid. East Caribbean Central Bank we issued Treasury Bills to them — \$10,000,000. The National Insurance Scheme of Barbados — we borrowed \$5,000,000 from them. Jamaica they don't press us for it but they need it; we borrowed \$205,000 from Jamaica. From Trinidad and Tobago we borrowed \$10,000,000. We even went out to the Republic of China. Although we don't have relationship with China, we have gone and borrowed money from the Communist Government of China. I remember when we brought the resolution here people said we had gone communist, etc. So we needed the money, we had to go to borrow it. We borrowed \$1,000,000 from them. Then we go to our commercial banks here, we borrowed \$23,000,000. We go to the National Insurance Scheme we borrowed \$2,000,000 and to local traders \$610,000. The total here is \$10,000,000. Not in development money, but just to meet our current obligations. Then we send our students to the universities. Most of them are civil servants, but we don't pay our university fees; we don't pay what is due. We owe the UWI 4.5 million dollars. They threatened to close their doors on our students; we have to meet it. These are the obligations of the Government which have to be met.

OBLIGATIONS

"It is not only one set of people that must take everything that comes to the Treasury. We have other obligations to meet; contributions to international organisations. We just got some assistance for storm damage from the Food and Agricultural Organisation. We are members of that organisation, but do we pay our dues? It is this burden of \$7,000,000 a month that is over our necks. That is it. We cannot meet our

obligations as an independent country. And people must realise that as an independent country we have certain obligations that we must meet. It is not only the obligation of the \$7,000,000 at the end of every month. It is not that the Government cannot meet it. It is not that the economy is not growing enough to meet it. It is just that certain people are ensuring that too many obligations are being placed on this economy; and if it continues it will bring us to our knees. Treasury Bills bear interest. When you owe \$70,000,000 you have got to pay interest on it. We owe in interest \$14,000,000.

"In 1984 the Caribbean Development Bank approved a water supply scheme that would relieve the position in the Vieux Fort area, giving places like Grace water. Places like Barre Denis would have got water. The scheme is not on stream now, because Government had not been paying its water bills for rural water supplies. Government was not paying the Water Authority. Now we are going ahead with a huge electricity scheme. We are pushing on now trying to get lights to all these little towns and villages. The manager of the electricity company told me that he is trying to connect in December something like 500 consumers.

"At the rate we are going we will soon outstrip the production of our electricity plans. But in order to get new plant you must borrow money, and to borrow money you must pay what you owe. At least service your loans. So this morning, I am getting a letter from the manager of the Electricity Services and he is saying that Government is in arrears — Government and statutory organisations. That is Government, the City Council, and the Water Authority. Because both the City Council and the Water Authority are subordinates, organisations of the Government, if they owe it is the Government's obligation to see that it is paid. If we don't pay that amount the loan for the electricity improvement scheme is going to be cancelled. And what is going to happen in the next few years? Outages! blackouts! shortages!!! These are obligations we must meet if we are developing the country. And can we meet them and meet the demands that people are trying to place on us?

"We have to make our choices and the Government has to make its choice. As I said, we cannot look at tomorrow's vote. We have to look at the total development of the country and our responsibility as a Government. And our responsibility is not only to one section. As I said, the people of Barre Denis and the people of Grace could have had water now, but we don't pay our water bills, so the Caribbean Development Bank refuses to disburse the money until we got our house in order. We have now got it in order, and next year I hope that these water supplies will be on stream and these people will be able to benefit from the programme of Government to give water supply to all the other areas.

"Then a basic thing like medicines for the hospital, medicines for the poor and the sick. We can't pay or would not pay. Not can't, but wouldn't, because the amount of these bills come to the attention of Government — when I say Government I am speaking of the Cabinet or the Minister for Finance — only when they are long overdue. Medicines are ordered, medicines come in, medicines are not paid for because that \$7,000,000 must be in the Treasury on the 25th. Endangering the health of your people, endangering you people because you are making demands that you should not be making.

WAGES

"People shout about unemployment, let us take wages. The man who works in the street, who gets a little job on the road. In 1983 we spent \$9,000,000 in casual wages, in 84/85 we spent \$10,000,000. In 85/86 we spent \$11,000,000. That is in wages; that is to give the little man a job. You want me to give you how much we spent in salaries at the same time? In salaries, while wages went from 9-10-11 million dollars between 82/83 salaries went from 56 million to 78 million — 22 million dollars between that period to 2 million in the same period, 22 to 2. It is not the little man that is getting it, it is not the roads we are repairing, it is not the bridges we are building, it is not the schools we are adding to.

"We as a Government will not be taking any action that we know that will bring this country in a few years down on its knees. We have seen what has happened in other countries when they have yielded. Thanks to the efforts of the people of Saint Lucia, led by the Government of the United Workers Party, they have brought us out from these dark and dismal days to the point where we can see some hope, to the point in which we can with confidence and assurance look forward to the future, where we can stand, where we can offer our people a little relief, where the people can have some hope. We are not going to turn that clock back, we are not allowing anybody to go and disturb the progress that we have made because of their greed for power, because they have ulterior motives.

"Neither are we going to allow them to use the public servants for that purpose. In all of this, you know, the Public Services are not being consulted. In all of this there has been no consultation. They send around all types of circulars which you find in the waste basket of most public servants, because they know exactly where these people are coming from. In all of this they have not consulted them. We want to be fair to all concerned. To the country, to the workers in the public services, we want to be fair to them.

"We have just received the latest from the teams who are negotiating on behalf of the unions. I will read the first one, that the total backpay due to the Public Sector workers which comprise the following: the Civil Service Association, the Saint Lucia Teachers Union, the Nurses Association, the Police Association, the Fire Service Association, the Prison Service Association, Daily-paid Workers, be paid in full before the upcoming general elections. The motive is clear, the cat is out. So we are not talking about getting a settlement, about trying to make any sort of compromise. It is not the give-and-take but it is to keep an issue alive before the General Elections. Up to the General Elections — that is the whole motive of this thing. They are

playing politics with this thing now. But they are not going to play politics with the Public Services Association, because we will isolate them from the general body of the Public Service, because we know they are not behind that. No public servant who is worth his salt, who is worthy of being called a Saint Lucian, will sell his country for 25 per cent. You are going to sell your country knowing the difficulties? You are going to sell it for 25 per cent?

"You know in the last 1982 settlement that was made, just days before elections, having negotiated with the Government of the then Prime Minister Cenac and refused, I think 40 per cent, two days after they settled with Prime Minister Pilgrim for 50 per cent — two days before elections. But it had to be paid as I told you. We had to go around the world to borrow. We borrowed from Communist China. I just got this telegram, they must have heard what we are doing. We have monies sharing around, so they draw attention to this. From the 15th June, 1983 to the 15th of December, 1983 — interest of 40,000 United States Dollars on that loan was due — status unpaid and overdue, second payment, from December, 1983 to June 1984 — \$40,000 United States dollars, overdue and unpaid. December to June 1984, 40,000 dollars, overdue and unpaid right on to December 15th 1986, overdue and unpaid. Two hundred and eighty thousand United States dollars to be paid, money borrowed to meet public servants for the 1983 payment cannot be paid. We borrowed 5 million dollars from the banks to pay bonds, now we are borrowing another one and a half million dollars. So that we have two and one-half for the Chinese, six and a half here, and on which interest is being paid at 15 per cent, so nine million dollars.

"Now let us stop playing games, let us stop playing games and know that we are dealing here with the future of our children. All of us here are responsible, and I want to congratulate the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for the position which he has taken. Of course I do not agree to everything he has said. A lot of it is open to argument. We cannot meet the demand, alright we go over the line, we go to 75 per cent. I am sure that before the day is over we will hear from the Opposition party that they will pay the other 25 when they get in. So they are inviting civil servants and public servants to sell-out their country for 25 per cent. Twenty-five per cent today and 110 per cent suffering in the next few years. I do not think they will get away with it this time.

"But I am telling you, the battle-line has been drawn and there is no question now of where the public stands. As I said we have now to isolate those politicians who have crept into the public service unions and pretend to speak on their behalf."

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OPPOSITION PARTY PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITIES CITED, EXAMINED

Pilgrim Candidacy

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 7 Feb 87 p 1

[Text]

POLITICAL activity is intensifying in St. Lucia as all signs continue to point to a general election being held sometime soon.

Prime Minister John Compton has not announced the election date except for his statement late last month that it would be within weeks.

In the meantime, there has been a fair acceleration of party activity with public meetings and the wooing of candidates for the respective slates of the parties.

During the week the Progressive Labour Party suffered some reverses. Another attempt by PLP leader George Odum to work with the main opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) failed.

The PLP leader had written to the SLP suggesting a joint protest to the Government over New York newspaper allegations that a local airline had been involved in the transportation of arms to South Africa.

In response the SLP indicated that it was making its own concerns known to the Government and suggested that the two opposition parties work independently.

On Monday, Odum was ordered by the Courts to pay \$20,000 in libel damages to attorney Clarence Rambally, Minister without Portfolio arising out of allegations in his CRUSADER newspaper months before the last general elections in 1982.

MEMBERSHIP

As if this was not enough there were reports this week that former PLP Chairman and election candidate Antonius "Secra" Gibson had been granted membership of the SLP. Only last week,

Odum addressing a press conference said that Gibson and others had not formally left the PLP as was being suggested elsewhere.

Then the SLP issued a statement to the effect that its North East Castries constituency group had agreed that Dr. Mikey Pilgrim be nominated as the SLP candidate in the forthcoming general elections.

Dr. Pilgrim, former deputy political leader of the PLP is reportedly being sought by both the SLP and the ruling United Workers' Party (UWP) to run in the coming elections.

Although Dr. Pilgrim could not be contacted for comment yesterday, THE VOICE reliably learnt that he has so far not made up his mind about the coming elections, and there were claims in some circles that the SLP release as well as a recent article in COMBAT could have been timed to put him on the spot and prod him into running with the SLP.

The SLP statement said the North East Castries constituency meeting had decided to forward the recommendation for Dr. Pilgrim's candidature to SLP political leader Julian Hunte "in order to facilitate dialogue with Dr. Pilgrim."

Added the release: "It was further agreed that this matter should be dealt with expeditiously and if successful the necessary steps be taken to ensure that Dr. Pilgrim be endorsed as the St. Lucia Labour Party candidate for the constituency of North East Castries."

Dr. Pilgrim was one of the foundation members of the PLP, breaking away from the SLP with the Odum brothers during the political crisis of 1979-82.

He served as Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office, responsible for Finance during the ill-fated SLP administration. When the Government collapsed in January 1982, Dr. Pilgrim was appointed Interim Prime Minister to take the country into fresh general election.

When election day came around Pilgrim lost his North East Castries seat won handsomely in 1979, in one of the many shock results of the day, to UWP candidate Mr. John Bristol.

Shortly afterwards, Dr. Pilgrim seemed to have become disillusioned and distanced himself from the PLP while concentrating on his professional career.

Yesterday, Hunte said he was looking forward to holding discussions with Dr. Pilgrim whom he said would be "a valuable asset" to both the SLP and the country as a whole.

Odlum Press Conference

Castries CRUSADER in English 7, 14, 21 Feb, 7 Mar 87

[7 Feb 87 p 11]

[Text]

Leader of the Progressive Labour Party George Odlum last week lashed out at the United Workers Party Government for its cover-up on the facts surrounding the Typhoid situation in the country.

At a press Conference on Thursday the P.L.P. Leader disclosed that there were five cases of Typhoid in Castries and twenty in Grand Riviere alone.

Mr. Odlum also lashed out at the Government for the manner in which they hugged the media to willfully distort the truth. The Progressive Labour Party Leader took U.W.P. Party Chairman Henry Giraudy to task noting that Giraudy's latest statement was an insult to the intelligence of St.Lucians.

On the question of Opposition Unity to fight the forth coming General Elections, Mr. Odlum said that the door of the Progressive Labour Party will be left open until one day before the elections.

The following is the PLP Leaders interview.

ODLUM: In the past few weeks there has been a clear indication from members of the ruling party that a General Election is imminent. We had the Prime Minister who told us that within the next few weeks he will be giving the country a chance to get rid of cheap politicians and we've

had Mr. Giraudy last night who indicated that we are on the threshold of a quiet election. I think Mr. Giraudy was right when he described it as a quiet election, but he gave the reasons for such an observation being the fact that there is a stability in the country and people will not want to return to the chaos of 1979 and so the election will be a quiet one, in which he assumed that his Government will be easily returned. Once again Mr. Giraudy might be right for the wrong reason. I think the question of stability in the country does not turn on the question of the management of the Government. I think we will have a quiet election because we have just come through five years of the most quietly vicious Government in the Caribbean. The Government has been quietly vicious on a number of things. It has been vicious in its victimisation, it has been vicious in the condoning of corruption it has been vicious in its abuse of the media, it has been vicious in its distortion and its lies. Recently I had the occasion to correct the Minister of Health, Clendon Mason on some obvious distortions which had deep significance for the people of St.Lucia. It was on the question of the incidence of typhoid in St.Lucia. He came out and made his statement to the effect that there were only one or two cases of typhoid in the Morne Panache area. I rebutted that, by saying there were twenty cases in the Dennery area. He came out on

HTS and attempted to refute without refuting. He said no one had questioned his Ministry about the details and this is 'not' true. He also gave the impression that it was contained and localised only to the Morne Panache area, this was a wilful distortion. It was a distortion because I am able to reveal today that there are now five cases of typhoid in the Castries area, so typhoid had moved from the Dennery area into the Castries area, and I am saying this without any fear of contradiction. I am also able to tell the Ministry of Health who ought to be in control of statistics that there are twenty cases of typhoid in Grand Riviere area alone in Dennery, which he has never mentioned before.

Morne Panache has had one or two admittedly but it is simply not right to hood-wink the people of St. Lucia and keep the important facts from them. The fact that the people are now aware that there is typhoid in the Castries area puts the onus on the Minister of Health to come out and say what exactly is being done, first he ought to tell us what the statistics are in general, how many cases are there in Dennery how many in Grand Riviere, how many in Castries and tell us what the programme and the campaign is for controlling this and stopping the incidence of typhoid. We cannot sweep it under the carpet and hope that the Health of our community will continue to deteriorate or to be good according to how its handled. He has now to tell us what is the Government's plan for containing typhoid. Typhoid is only one small example of the Government lying to the people and distorting the realities of life and existence in St. Lucia. I

have not mentioned the number of cases of Aids at St. Jude's I have not mentioned that but still I want to point out that the onus is on Government to let us know the truth at all times, and this brings us to the question of the forthcoming General Elections. Unfortunately the indicators are very bad. We have had a media campaign of lies, distortions, untruths euphemisms self congratulation which is completely unwarranted. Recently we had the spectacle of the Minister for Community Development, the ubiquitous Romanus Lansiquot. He came and made a grand play at Ciceron about a (distressed family. A mother who allegedly abandoned five children, and he has moved in to the act and saying that the citizens of the community who got together and built a house for them, that it was simply a make shift house and a house not fit for his children to live in, but he will go and construct a new house and his side kick Mr. Brathwaite will see about putting the children at school. Now this is a whole politicising of the suffering of the people in St. Lucia. Mr. Lansiquot hasn't looked beyond this case to see the plight of housing for a woman trying to raise five children and find a place to keep them in, he did not when they went to his Ministry before. He didn't see it fit to handle the plight of this woman and her children, but now he is trying to cash in politically with a cheap kind of political gimmick on the plight of these people and tonight on the Market Steps I will expose the full facts of this case to show how crass and how cheap our Government is and the media which is the most important vehicle in St. Lucia for the education of the people of St. Lucia, is

now being abused in a way which even the citizens of the state who are usually not aware of these subtleties of the operation of the media are now chock-full with Mr Lansiquot and the PM and Mr Mallet, on the way they are trying to distort things in order to create the ambience for a General Election. But we know that the record of the Government has been one which is being quietly observed by the entire electorate. The stability Mr Giraudy spoke of is a very questionable stability. It's a stability that watched what happened in the Yamaha case. It's a stability that watched injustice a stability that kept an eye on Copra Manufacturers and the corruption there and the failure of the Government to even enquire into it. Even Antigua which has been featured on the regional scene for a lot of corruption has now got around to an enquiry into the airport affair

ST.Kitts is now on the threshold of another enquiry but we don't hear of such enquiries into corruption in St.Lucia. The works permit scandal has gone by the board. No one has ever enquired into it. It continued in the same way, and so when we think there is stability in St.Lucia, there is fear, our people have been cowed, there's been victimisation. The employees of the media who observe the abuse are themselves not in a position to stand up against it and for this my heart goes out to them. But this community has enough independent people, people of independent means, men and women in commerce who should be standing up against a Government that has been so quietly vicious. And this is why this General Elections is going to prove to be very interesting,

because it will be an opportunity and this is the role the P.L.P. is playing in this General Election. It is an opportunity to show that there is another way. It's an opportunity to show that we need not go the way of all corrupt political flesh, it's an opportunity to stand up and be counted, an opportunity to make a quiet mark against a Government that has imposed repressive legislation on us. A Government who has made it a point to suppress trade Unions and to control the workers, and to break agreements, and to withhold the payments of workers and to operate in a snide underhand way in containing all expressions of the people of St.Lucia and that is why it's going to be a quiet election with a quiet backlash.

Timothy James; Mr Odum a quiet election as you're predicting following upon what Mr Giraudy said, is the Progressive Labour Party ready to take over the reins of the Government?

Mr G. Odum; The Progressive Labour Party is as ready to take over the reins of Government as any other Party in this country. The fact that Mr Compton is now governing with a collection of the type of Ministers he has, is an indication that we need no readiness to take over the type of Governments that operate in St.Lucia and the Eastern Caribbean at the moment. I am saying that although we haven't got a presidential Election here, where we vote for Presidents, one man could pull a team of misfits together and win an election in St.Lucia.

This has been the order of the day, it has been done in the past and it can happen again.

David Vitalis; Mr. Odum, By your own admission one man could pull a team of misfits together. I wonder if this is an admission or are you confirming in a very subtle way that there will be no accommodation, or you have given up your hopes for accommodation with the St. Lucia Labour Party and I ask this again against the background that two of your well known sympathisers inside the S.L.P. on the question of unity mainly Mr Hilary Modeste and Mr Peter Josie seem to have changed their minds what is the present

position on the question of unity with you?

G. Odum; Well I always have the carpet out on the question of unity, because the question of unity is so fundamental, not only unity of the parties. The unity of the country is very fundamental and this is a position that we held. We've been expressing faithfully from 1982 to now, saying that it is essential for St. Lucia to come together in order to fight the developmental battle and to stand [Installment ends; as published.]

[14 Feb 87 pp 4, 8]

[Text]

G. Odum; Well I always have the carpet out on the question of unity, because the question of unity is so fundamental, not only unity of the parties. The unity of the country is very fundamental and this is a position that we held. We've been expressing faithfully from 1982 to now, saying that it is essential for St. Lucia to come together in order to fight the developmental battle and to stand in competition with other forces in the region and international forces. It's important for economic development to have a united country. Pari-passu it is important to have the parties together and that was my argument for a National Government. Having said that I am committed to the question of Opposition Unity at any time up to one day before the election does not mean that I will swallow everything, because the PLP stands for a body of principles which we must preserve as much as possible, but I think that it's in the best interest of the

country now if we have to remove the vicious United Workers Party Government.

It's in the best interest of the people for the Opposition Parties to work out some understanding where we might even fight on a one and one situation against the United Workers Party.

That is my position to date, I have had no formal exchanges with anyone on that. The fact that Mr Josie and Mr Modeste whom you quoted as being sympathisers to the idea of unity sound no longer as if they are sympathisers on that score is not interesting in itself. What is interesting is the reason for which they have changed their positions.

N. Joseph; Mr Odum, you said that you would be holding on that quest for unity up to one day before the election. What happens after the elections if there is a situation where each party won a number of seats. Will that quest for unity be maintained?

Mr Odum; This is not so remote, the type of quiet election we are going into might see the electorate as equally cynical as the Government in tossing an election within the perimeters of Independence and Carnival. We might find the cynicism repaid by the electorate in choosing a few from each Party if it's a three cornered fight, and so there will have to be some sort of understanding but even then the principles of the PLP must stand.

T. James; I heard some people say that the reason why you want to have this kind of union, unity within the Parties, the Opposition party is that the PLP do not have all of the seventeen candidates.

Mr Odum; It is true that at the moment the PLP has not got seventeen candidates, that is a fact, but we are trying to fill our slate as much as possible and that is simply not the reason why I'm after unity, because I was after unity in 1982 when our quiver was overflowing with Candidates. So this gives an immediate lie to that allegation.

The SLP has its pocket of strength in the Southern part of the island, in the same way that PLP has its pocket of strength or its belt of strength in the Northern part of the island. And the PLP will stand behind that belt of strength within the northern part of the Island, and the SLP has been very good in Press Releases and using the media and trying to give the impression on the media that there is a following. There is nothing in terms of the success of their meetings to justify that. There might be the movement of one or two paid hangers on in both the UWP and the PLP moving to

the SLP but this tells you more about the cynicism and the money side of politics than it tells you about any genuine support. The SLP attempted to give the Public the impression that they had some support because they announced a poll which they had conducted, but Political Parties of themselves don't conduct their own polls they get a professional organisation to do it. It's done according to a certain format, it's done with ratings for certain areas, and proper evaluators, and so the fact that they came up with bogus figures let the cat out of the bag.

It showed the people that they wanted to give the impression to the Public that they were getting people on their side

The PLP has made no such statements. We think we have our support, we are starting from tonight with a meeting on the Market Steps to mobilise that support and to get it out again, but we are making no such claims as being the winner of any election. We're going to fight the United Workers Party straight out and full out in this election. We're going to give out the very good strength we can muster and given the laid back situation of this election but we will fight them because we think what the U.W.P. stands for is anathema to what the P.L.P. stands for.

I think we are offering an alternative course and this is what we owe to the people of St. Lucia.

T. James; Mr Odum if one accepts the figures for the last General Elections, I take the percentage figures you will notice that the percentage in which the Prog-

ressive Labour Party held in the last Election was low and if one goes into an election now. The PLP I am not too sure but I don't think they will be going with the same Candidates, so it looks to me that the new Candidates of the P.L.P. with the same Candidates of the other Parties, that the chances of the P.L.P. might be slim.

Odlum; No, that analysis was faulty. First of all we can consider the percentage of the P.L.P. vote low not in relation to the S.L.P. vote which was even lower. You might call it low in relation to the U.W.P. vote, but an important phenomenon in these elections is the swing of the pendulum. The pendulum swing the last time against what's now the Opposition and that pendulum is swinging now against the United Workers Party because a lot of the members of the U.W.P. and erstwhile supporters will be staying away from the polls because of disenchantment with the Party. A lot of their strong supporters have moved, some has moved to SLP some moved to PLP. So it's a position now where the U.W.P. is in much more tricky position than they would care to concede.

Well the question of Candidates is a beautiful question to ask at this time because there is a certain cynicism now about the politics and politicians which makes any new Candidate a God-send now, looking like a fresh face and the P.L.P. will focus their attack on the honesty of their Candidates. The honesty, "the cleanliness" and the fact that they have not been involved in any of the sort of doubtful

transactions which went on before. This will be the strength of the PLP coming all to the case where the UWP in 1979 was accused of massive corruption. The Labour Party after that showed that there was corruption in the ranks of the Labour Party which was the genesis or the *raison-d'etre* for the formation of the P.L.P.. Now because of that we are getting some recycled candidates if we can call them that coming back into the election, and I am hoping with the new faces that the P.L.P. will highlight the fact that we must purge that type of thinking out of the minds of St. Lucians that we have to cosy-up to corruption and take yours and shut your mouth.

They accuse me strongly of having broken up the Labour party on the basis that I didn't like what was going on there and that I should receive my salary, shut my mouth and allow the Government to proceed. I took a strong stand against that and it is this stance which gives me the legitimacy to stand up today and rally any area of the electorate that is ready to go for change and a new deal in St. Lucian life.

N. Joseph; Mr Odlum the Government has said consistently that they cannot afford to pay Public Servants their back-pay. What do you think is the economic situation in the country at the moment, do you think the Government can afford to pay the back-pay?

Mr. Odlum; Again I cannot be specific on the ability to pay because all Governments when presented with a negotiation bill usually say that they cannot afford to pay and we cannot restrict that to Governments

alone. Companies do the same, usually companies have to produce their figures to show they are unable to pay, but the Government cannot blow hot and cold at the same time. The Prime Minister cannot in his New Year's message, State of the Union message and every other gimmick used to hog the media, come out and tell us that the country is doing better than it has ever done before, bananas are booming, tourism is bringing in untold revenue and at the same time tell Civil Servants that you cannot afford to pay them. You must be accurate, you must cut down the waste if you say you cannot pay. You cannot indulge in wasteful expenditure, you cannot indulge in expedition projects then form an agreement with the Civil Servants, break the agreement and say we cannot pay. I think I did use the phrase that has been the most quietly vicious term of Government in St. Lucia and the handling of the Civil Servants been consistent in that it's quietly vicious.

D. Vitalis; Mr. Odlum it is now a well known fact that several of your closest political disciples have left you. Mr. Sicra Gibson, Mikey Pilgrim, Gilroy Satney to name a few. What were the reasons for their departure?

G. Odlum; You are asking me a question that honestly were better asked to these characters who have not left. Sicra Gibson is still a member of the Progressive Labour Party, he wrote us a note saying he might not consider running in this election but he's reconsidering this decision at the moment. Mr. Gilroy Satney has never formerly left the Party, Mr. Michael Pilgrim has not left the

Party. He's stepped down from executives duties, he has not as far as I'm aware notified the P.L.P. that he has left, but that being so these people are laid back now as far as the operations of the P.L.P. is concerned.

These reasons might be subjective reasons. I wouldn't want to go into their various reasons. There was some question at one stage where they had asked a group of them to hold a meeting with me and that was after they had failed to attend four executive meetings, and I said to them I wasn't entertaining any cabal of this sort that we would call on executive meeting and they'll come to the executive meeting and say what they had to say. Whatever their reasons are I mean they are free to do so, they're not leaving me, they're leaving the Progressive Labour Party and any time a Party's Principle or it's modus operandi or even it's Leadership is not totally satisfying to anyone they are free to move out. They are free to move I mean we are not a party that crack the whip. It doesn't mean we are the type of Party that would victimise people because they've done this or that.

I feel it's a right to do so. The reasons for doing so I am myself is not quite clear and I'm sure some of them are not themselves quite clear on the reasons. They have had no firm public statement on that and I haven't called them individually and say to them what is your reason. I think those who want to relate to the Party again will do so, those who think it's too stringent or not operating properly will find the best way to make an Organisation operate properly is to stay in it and control it.

T. James; Government Ministers when they speak in public make

reference of a lot of statistical figures leading up to 1979, if we use the graphs everything went up a peak. From 79 to 82 there was a drop and it has kept back tourism, industry and agriculture etc. This is what the Government is saying it's achievements has been over the last four and a half years. When the Progressive Labour Party comes out as you say you'll start from tonight what the issues you're going to raise? Mr. Odium; All issues that have so far affected the life of the people of St.Lucia and interfered with the quality of life of the people of St.Lucia. The economic issue will be foremost. The Government has been manipulating statistics, they've been taking two periods, 79-82 was the worst period in human history for St.Lucia. It was the period which coincide with A Labour Government In my view there are positives and negatives in that period, even during that period of time when there were Leadership squabbles if you like, it's called that and will stick with the tide. Even during that period there's some positive aspects of Government which have never been high-lighted before. There were things that people enjoyed very much that they don't enjoy now or doubling of the pension of poor people all these schools that are being opened now were made on the drawing board and some of them arranged with Hess. By the Labour Government. Most of the projects during this U.W.P. period that have come on are things that had been negotiated and arranged during the period of Labour Government. The National Bank and the Development Bank that they rely so ironically upon now and so heavily, these banks were set up by a Labour Government even

while they quarreled. A lot of the things which put authority in the hands of the people allowing the people to discuss freely allowing them to protest, letting the Unions find their strength and come to life, this way of developing the people of St.Lucia has been stymied and curtailed during the UWP Period. But one of the most dishonest aspects of that formulation, economic formulation that you have put out there is the Government has not stopped to tell people that everything happening in the economy now which they claim as a plus is a direct result of the international movement of prices and the international recession which had stopped.

The reason why Tourist come here now is because Tourist can travel more because there is more money available in the North American economy and the European economy. It has nothing to do with John's Compton management. The reason why bananas are booming here is simply because the price levels inter-national prices, green boat prices have moved in favour, this is an international phenomenon that has little to do with production levels or any management. The only serious thing the Government did in bananas was carry on a review of the Banana Association which made it less of a wasteful element in the Labour function. But apart from that they're taking a lot of praise for banana revenue and when that's analysed in economic terms it's no thanks to Mr. Compton, his financial management or anything as a matter of fact the financial management of this Government leaves a lot to be desired.

[21 Feb 87 pp 6, 15]

[Text]

T.James: What alternative are you going to present

Mr.Odlum: Well this is going to be the nub of our campaign. The nub of our campaign, we will show how we think the economy should develop. We will show thing that at times when you're just regaling yourself in banana production figures, is a time you should spend on diet spend on diversifying this economy to make sure we're not so totally dependent on bananas as we are and tend to continue to be.

T.James: There's a saying-you might even know it better than me, I am not quite sure I can quote it properly. There is a saying that goes that it is better to deal with the Devil you know than the Devil you don't know. I think this is a consideration that some people might take in the next election.

Mr.Odlum: This is something that was said of Hitler, of Stalin, of Napoleon, and a number of dictators. It is better to deal with the Devil that you know than the Devil that you don't know.

Now if your Government is dealing with a Leader then you might have that concept, but if you have another concept of Government as developing the people, making them capable of taking decisions, making them capable of organic part in the development of their country then you can help them to make decisions. This Government has fallen very short on that. I have shown with the model of the

typhoid statistics that they withhold the statistics and distort them instead of giving them to the people so that the people could form their own assessments of what is right, what should be done. And because of that I say that if we stick with the Devil we know the people of St.Lucia will be doomed to the kind of subjectivity they are in now. We will not lift our horizons at all, we will not be able to get the free expression of the people. There was something beautiful about the worst days, what the UWP called the worst days of Government in St.Lucia 79-82. The man on the street had power- the man on the street had influence. We could never have a Yamaha under a Labour Government, because the force of people on the street would have forced us to investigate and take action against whoever is guilty. We couldn't have a lot of what's going on now under a Government that allowed free expression. And that is why I think the people of St.Lucia can hear every day the bluff of a minister Lansiquot, the self congratulation, the bombast, the arrogance and out of all that they'll be able to decide that there is another way.

D.Vitalis: Mr. Odlum, it is the justified opinion of some people that SLP and PLP are one family one evolved out of the other, what would be your election strategy in terms of dealing with your two opposing Parties will you be lighter on Mr. Hunte and heavy on Mr. Compton or vice versa?

Mr.Odlum: You're asking me a very ticklish question which I had rather you didn't ask me, but I like to be honest with journalist

and I like to speak right out. I wish you didn't ask me at this time, but my main objection in this country at this point in time is the way that the UWP has handled the country from the time they've been in power. We have been very explicit on that in years past and we have to cover this five year period now and identify it. So the main focus of the PLP will be against the UWP.

Having said that there are elements in the SLP that disturbs us quite a lot and Mr. Hunte himself as a leader we think have serious weaknesses which we owe it to the people of St. Lucia to point out.

So we are not totally happy with the composition of the SLP as it is. This is why even now when we are calling for some kind of accommodation some kind of understanding we cannot go out and talking in terms of a full getting together of the two Parties, because under these condi-

tions a lot of things would have to be threshed out. Things like the Principles which we follow, the style of a new Government that type of thing which we do not always agree with the way SLP handle things. We think they are following in the footsteps of the UWP by being cynical and disrespectful of the people and dealing in bluff Press Releases and saying that you have done things that you 'haven't done. Mr. Hunte announcing last week that he was going to the IMF and the World Bank for interviews, you leave on Thursday and there are three days of holiday including Martin Luther on a Monday. You reach New York and you don't even reach Washington then you come back to St. Lucia and you say nothing at all. You might have had a meeting in a basement in Ottawa with some Canadians, but come back after and say what you have done.

Do not announce to the whole world before that you're going to do all these things and then sneak back and keep quiet on it.

This is UWP type bluff and I don't want to see it in any party that we have anything to do with. One thing you can say with the PLP they're straight.

If you ask me if I have Candidates and I haven't got I'll tell you. I wouldn't dodge the question and because of that we will have to be flicking Mr. Hunte off the pads in this campaign if we have to fight a three cornered fight.

And we'd have to be pointing out in peripherally a manner any of those sorts of weaknesses or any attempt to hoodwink the people, but our main focus will be on the United Workers Party I think that's the real enemy.

D. Vitalis: I was getting the impression from what you were saying that you'd rather see the UWP win than the SLP?

Mr. Odum: Oh, no! far from that UWP stand for all that we do no. stand for in a way. Their handling of the economy is not the way we'd hand the economy. The way they are disdainful of the people generally and not taking them into their decision making.

The way Mr. Compton runs his country is not my style of running a country but he has done Yeoman's service over the years you have to respect that and you know it gets us into a particular situation if we think in Presidential terms. You would pose me a real conundrum if you asked me the question of a country under Hunte or a country under

Compton, you would tax me to the hilt to reply. That is why I think the PLP has a firm role to play in this election of providing the alternative cost showing what we stand for and showing some area of decency in the squalid arena of politics.

D.Vitalis: There is a rumour around town that after the General Elections you'll take up Regional post or Regional jobs?

Mr. Odum: I have not been offered any Regional job and I am not taking up any Regional job.

have pinned my mast to the people of St. Lucia working here, I have had my victories in politics, I have had my defeat. One thing you can say I've been there through victory and through defeat and I intend to continue to be there. Whatever happens at the next election if you still allow me to come on H.T.S. for years after I will be doing that.

D.Vitalis: Were you offered a Regional job?

Mr. Odum: I was not offered any regional job.

[7 Mar 87 p 9]

[Text] But if I'm offered to leave the United Nations now I will stay in St Lucia and help my people.

N. Joseph: Mr Odum, there are certain people in certain circles who seem to feel that you are the greatest obstacle to any meaningful change in this country. How do you see this view?

Mr Odum: I want to know which area you are thinking about. The word meaningful foxes me. I am an obstacle to a certain type of change, that is why PLP is fighting now. I do not want to swap UWP faces for SLP faces and not know what we have accomplished by that, I do not want to be party to that. There is no magic in the name SLP, SLP comprises a body of men in the same way that PLP does and some principles. If those principles are not clearly obvious and doesn't coincide with the Principles of the PLP then it is incumbent upon me to make that type of distinction. A lot of people consider me as an obstacle to a lot of things that could happen. Some of them do it with good grace, some of them do it spitefully I think that I have part of the process of change in St Lucia and I think more people perceive me as that than anything else, they don't think of me in terms of an obstruction in terms of the development and the freeing up of the system. They don't see me in those terms but a lot of people had rather that I had dropped dead because they would be free to go along the merry way that they would want to go.

N. Joseph: How do you interpret Mr Josie's statement that he could accept all other persons in the SLP except you and Mr Compton.

Mr Odum: It is sometimes very difficult getting some level of consistency out of Mr Josie's statements. He makes quite a few and they are usually consistent. I like to think of me as being intrinsically different from Mr Compton. He's fought along side me for long enough to know some of the things I stand for albeit that he might not accept some of them. He's fought alongside me long

enough to know some of the things that I would not accept and because of that I think Mr Josie would not see me, for example, as coming out on television and saying such and such a person said there are a hundred and twenty cases of typhoid when he only said twenty. Mr Josie knows I would not do that so I do not think he'd categorise me completely with Mr Compton. But for political purposes I think Mr Josie fancied that there is a lot of opposition to the Government on the ground. The thinking is that PLP has not got the slate to take up that slack and so the feeling against the Government in the country will somehow fall on the SLP plate. Politics does not work like that, you have to work for every inch of ground that you get.

Mr Josie knows that because he's part of the lead up to 79 where we worked to move the ground under the people. In a way that SLP isn't doing well so there isn't the ra-ra about SLP politics now. You don't find Market women running to say where the next meeting, how things going brother and that type of emotional atmosphere now with the emergency of a party which we got in the run up to 79. But Mr Josie feels that there is a fighting chance of SLP making a good showing at the election. He must feel so because he himself is being presented as a candidate in the South and he hopes to win his seat, he says.

He said more than hopes. But being a fact it was important then for Mr Josie to try to shrug off the PLP as a challenge to the SLP's vote, and his surest way of doing that is to sort of lump UWP and PLP together. Now there is one hangover, on complex which the SLP has, it is because of it's leadership Mr Hunte closely associated in family terms with Mr Compton. In the country side and all around they have a tremendous job trying to shake this off.

Mr Compton in his last statement he made on the Boulevard on this didn't help Mr Hunte at all and because of that they sort of want to get back at the PLP by saying the PLP is nearer to the UWP than the SLP so that is part of the thinking which would lead Mr Josie to make what is clearly an irrational statement of that kind.

Vitalis: Mr Odum could tell us a little about your official election campaign, up to now how many candidates you have identify your programme of activities, a date for the publication of your manifesto and other things. [as published]

Odum: I will be the first Party to come out to tell you those things and in this I do not want to be the first. Mr Giraudy looked out last night and he said nothing, he said, we are preparing our manifesto, we'll have a meeting some time next week but he had an opportunity to do all that and he didn't.

The tactics of this election are very much more important than the straight confrontational tactics of the last election. So therefore I think it is premature now to tell you how many Candidates we are fielding, to tell you when our manifesto will be out to tell you how we're going to play the election because I think its a very tactical election and the fact that we have maintained the tactical silence now for a number of months can tell you a few things of how cagily we're playing this election because it's not an open rara election. And for that reason I don't think I can answer this question at

this stage. I will as the cards fall into place in the weeks to come.

Vitalis: I will fall off to here, let me put mine another way. Mr Giraudy did say also that what they are thinking of is how many of the three remaining seats they'll take. How many seats do the PLP think it will win in the next election!

Mr Odum: You have put your finger on exactly what we're talking about, about lies distortion and bluff. Mr Giraudy the Chairman of a Party came out to us a few weeks ago I think is around December or some time and told us that they will be returned with a reduced majority. In English in Latin and Spanish in any language the meaning of that is clear. They will be returned with a reduced majority, now he comes back and says I wasn't considering anything, they misunderstood what I said. Now don't insult the intelligence of our people. It's a typical UWP stance. They misunderstood, what I meant was that we had fourteen in the bag and we now fighting for the three. That is dangerous, that's wicked, that's perverse and that is the UWP mentality that we have to get away from their reins of Government in St Lucia. Coming back to your question, how many seats I think the PLP will take? This is contingent on a lot of things which will transpire in the next few weeks, I still have not buried the hope that there will be an accommodation where the SLP will fight them in certain seats and we will fight them in certain seats. If we fight on a larger canvas than that if we fight on the very reduced canvas on a certain number of seats our figures will be different. And if it's a three cornered fight the figures will be completely different. So that kind of analysis will depend on a few variables that I haven't got now.

N. Joseph: Mr Odum the Government has been saying that the economy is doing well, everything seems to be doing very good. If your Party wins the elections do you see yourself going into Government with an economy that is bouyant?

Odum: If my Party wins the election I see myself going into a Government with a very lopsided economy. And this will be one economic task to correct that, to bring in some more balance, a better distribution and to make sure that the general masses have a chance to see a change in the quality of their lives.

'Fiasco' of SLP Meeting

Castries CRUSADER in English 7 Mar 87 p 4

["Opinion Page" article: "SLP's Soufriere Fiasco!"]

[Text] Some months ago SLP's Party Leader Julian Hunte announced at Anse Jambette that his Party had thirty candidates for the seventeen seats in the forthcoming Election. Naturally he made no comment on the quality or the probity of these candidates. For him it was simply a game of numbers, so the more the merrier

He even offered to lend the PLP a few if necessary but the PLP refused to share in the first laugh!

Last week in Soufriere the game of numbers returned to plague the Party Leader. In recent months the candidate who fought the Soufriere seat for SLP in the 1982 Elections, Winston Cenac, informed the Party that he would not be contesting the seat again. Some claim that the hint of Pilgrim's admission into the Party has upset him but others claim that he has stepped down for domestic reasons. Nevertheless a Party which sports so many candidates, or rather political aspirants, should have no difficulty in assigning another person to the seat. The Party therefore announced in Soufriere that a public meeting would be held last Sunday. The purpose of the meeting was to unwrap Mr. Baden Allain as the Party's choice for the Soufriere Seat. However, the Party was already aware that a large delegation from Soufriere had protested Mr. Allain's appointment to the seat and wished to appoint Mr. Kenneth Foster as the candidate for Soufriere. There were a number of clashes in Soufriere that day on this issue. Both contestants met at Fond St. Jacques that Sunday. Messrs Walcott and Dubuisson had heated exchanges on the relative merits of the contenders. But the most surprising development was the angry vocal support of the people from the fishing village of Coin-de-Lance in favour of Kenneth Foster. From his handling of the disbursement of Stabex funds to assist people of Coin-de-Lance in 1981 and 1982 Winston Cenac had retained a

good base of political support in this area and the dramatic switch of this support to Foster suggests that the Cenacs are not averse to Foster's candidacy.

The Coin-de-Lance people protested loudly all over Soufriere about their rejection of what they termed "Hunte's Candidate". They vowed to break up any meeting called by the Party to announce Baden Allain's candidacy and they rooted wildly for Kenneth Foster.

The serious implications of this development for St. Lucia Labour Party which has been touting itself as a serious Opposition Party with no internal squabbles and no Leadership Struggle, was not missed by the candidates. Evans Calderon who was on the scene in Soufriere high-tailed it out of town saying that he did not want his Choiseul constituents to hear about this "roro". On the eve of the announcement of the date for the General Election, the only Party which has constantly expressed its readiness to take office, if not it's readiness to govern the country, was now mired in controversy and confusion. Kenneth Foster has the smell of victory in his nostrils and wasted no time in rigging his vehicle with horns and the mercurial stars which appear and disappear with baffling regularity according to his vacillating political fortunes in the Hunte Labour Party. Foster has bristled since he was bypassed for a political neophyte in the Anse La Raye-Canaries Constituency and he has seen this as an excellent opportunity to get back on the card of the Party he has been associated with for the past twenty-five years. Foster is

a wily political adversary and has already announced his intention to run as INDEPENDENT LABOUR if the Party refuses to endorse him as the official candidate for Soufriere.

In the meantime Baden Allain is literally stuck in gear because he had put great store on the full Party support which he was promised and now this open show of division and dissent baulks

him. In addition to this the Soufriere incident lays bare a disturbing aspect of the SLP. It hints at a structural division inside the Party which the SLPees fear will surface even before Polling Day. To the casual observer it looks very much as if the boast of the Party Leader about having too many candidates has backfired. The price he has to pay for having too many candidates might be much more drastic than the cost of not having sufficient candidates!

Assessment of Candidates

Castries THE VOICE in English 25 Feb 87 p 2

[Guy Ellis column "Sounding Off": "The Making of an Election Candidate"]

[Text]

THE quality of persons offering themselves to the electorate at election time continues to decline. In simple terms it means that the material entering the House of Assembly is falling short of national expectations and the quality of both representation and government St. Lucians are receiving is deteriorating.

Our political parties have no code, written or unwritten, which specifies qualifications for persons offering themselves for national office. There are some very basic qualifications in the constitution of St. Lucia which do not take care of those areas that ought to concern St. Lucians at this time.

The recent hullabaloo in the camp of the St. Lucia Labour Party about the Castries north east constituency calling for Mikey Pilgrim as the party's candidate in the election of 1987 is more flash than custom, a true rarity. Invariably, candidates impose themselves or are imposed by their parties on the constituencies, without any sort of formal endorsement.

In recent elections we have seen candidates with no commitment to either party or constituency seeking and or being elected to office, frustrating the goals and aspirations of those they ought to be representing. Others have turned out to be downright lazy and neglectful. Many candidates believe that once elected or rejected by the electorate they should immediately withdraw from the constituency activity

until the next elections or sometime close to it.

There is also the declining moral factor in today's candidates. In the 1950s and 1960s there were some high quality candidates in both the SLP and the then Peoples Progressive Party, men who commanded respect and themselves treated each other with respect. They were not perfect but they possessed a kind of stature that seemed to offset whatever were their shortcomings. They were gentlemen, mostly.

The SLP line up in the 1951 elections reads: La Cobinere, Collymore, James and George Charles (father and son), Bousquet (JMD), Compton (Clive) The PPP slate included: Carasco, Gordon, Charlie King, Maxius Joseph, Theodore.

The candidates of the fifties were seriously dedicated and committed men. They were selfless, hard workers. Interestingly, the party structure was then not the well oiled and organised instrument that it is today.

By the 1970s, a different breed of candidate was upon us, sometimes more articulate, but also more aggressive and often more suspect in the areas of genuine interest and commitment to those they sought to represent. In the 1980s, there have been variations of this latter breed, some with very shocking qualifications, and many of them sheer opportunists.

A cursory glance at some of the persons the electorate has had and might have to consider as parliamentary material in the 1980s will show persons who have plotted or considered the usurping of the constitution, planned or were accomplices to plans for violent sabotage, publicly threatened to kill the prime minister of the country, publicly threatened and encouraged violence, organised or supported the

throwing of excreta at meetings of political opponents, vandalised meetings of the House of Assembly, indicted in the courts on criminal charges of dishonesty, wore arms in the parliament, supported and participated in the disruption of political meetings of opponents, were guilty of political misconduct while holding Ministerial office.

These are among the "qualifications" of some of our election candidates today. There is a serious question of whether many of these people have any genuine commitment to give selfless and honest public service. The political hierarchy of all three of the political parties seems to care little whether a candidate can hold down a Ministry. The ability to win a seat at any cost, is all that seems to matter. In short, our candidates are more like racehorses.

Candidates are now people with grudges or axes to grind against the administration of the day, people who are believed to be in a positive to do a good job of washing the dirty linen of an opponent in public, people who can swing from one party to the other and are not at all bothered about how the electorate perceives their credibility, or lack of it.

In the 1987 elections there will be more candidates that have switched party allegiance than in the last four elections put together. This should bother the consciences of the candidates in question. It ought to bother the parties and it should seriously concern the people in the constituencies they are bidding to represent. But this hardly seems a consideration anywhere.

George Odum's PLP is the hardest hit by the defections. Of course, this is a blow to that party when so many of its adherents jump ship to other havens. But does it also tell us something about trust and loyalty? For instance, can a party feel genuinely proud in the knowledge that one of its candidates had been for more than a decade, an associate of the person he plans to run against? Does the electorate care?

Or can the electorate or party feel reasonably safe in the knowledge that one of its candidate has switched party allegiance more than once.

Many of the candidates of the 1980s fail to serve as examples of decency. Some enter the political arena already tainted and are in no position to offer the moral guidance and leadership that have become so necessary in the St. Lucia of today.

So when we hear of the candidates of 1987 we cannot help but recognise that we have reached an all-time low in quality and are down to the bare bones, so to speak.

Thirty years ago one party leader speaking of the popularity and strength of his organisation, boasted that if a rag was put on a broomstick and people were asked to vote for it in the name of the party, they would. Today, we are at the stage where all three parties are dangling this same motion in the face of the electorate. It is no longer a threat. It's a reality.

It is no secret why we are attracting the sort of candidates we have today. Politics in St. Lucia has become the culture of many, a way to get at, rather than an opportunity to do for others. High calibre candidates, persons of proven ability and competence, merit and integrity who want to offer themselves for national service are either intimidated from doing so by the sheer nature of the system or are gunned down even before they step onto the public platform.

Politics in St. Lucia is a game of mass personality destruction that chases away the good and leaves the electorate saddled with the bad, the ugly, the incompetent, the irrelevant. There are guilty faces in all three of the our political parties, yet each engages in chastising and ridiculing the candidates of the other.

So we are not getting the best in parliamentary representation that is possible. Even the Senate which at least should reflect a change in composition from the elected Chamber, both political parties that have held office since 1979 have chosen to pack the Upper House with political derelicts and party hacks, and only a sprinkling of those sons and daughters of St. Lucia who are revered by their countrymen and are deemed capable of making a positive contribution in the area of representation without political or party bias.

The sad part in that the election of 1987 offers no possibility of a departure from what has gone on before. We are not producing Lewis' and Gordons and Charles' and Comptons anymore, no more Carascos and McVanes. Except for a few exceptions we are down to the bare bones, bones without marrow.

SLP Platform

FL102355 Bridgetown CANA in English 2322 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Castries, 10 Mar (CANA)--Leader of the opposition St Lucia Labour Party, Julian Hunte, today listed diversification of agriculture and job creation among the priorities of an SLP government.

In a pre-election news conference that saw the government's social and economic policies coming under fire, Hunte also announced the names of 8 of 17 candidates the SLP will field for the April poll.

In a broad outline of the party's programme, Hunte said that if the SLP wins the election it will put agricultural diversification as a number one priority in its programme for making the country more self-reliant.

Incentives will be granted to farmers to assist in this diversification, he said. We will organise a new relationship between foreign and local investors in order to help find a solution for the massive unemployment problems facing St Lucia.

He added: it is necessary to look to the operations of the financial institutions so that our goals, priorities and aspirations could be fulfilled.

An SLP government will review all aspects of fiscal arrangements with the aim of ensuring that there is an equitable distribution of the tax burden and that there are incentives for St Lucians who work harder and produce more, he told reporters.

He said the fiscal arrangements will ensure that tax reductions will not reduce the takehome pay of any worker, enhance the viability of all business and create conditions for increased economic growth, thereby generating greater employment.

Hunte criticised the government, saying it was tired, had no new ideas to offer and was incapable of taking charge of our country's future.

What we have seen in the last five years is a government that has no integrated or coherent plan for dealing with the problems of our small nation, he charged.

/9274

CSO: 3298/173

BRIEFS

TRADE INFORMATION SERVICE--The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism says it has launched a national Trade Information Service designed to provide specific information to exporters on available trade and market opportunities, access conditions in overseas markets, freighting opportunities, availability and prices of equipment and other manufacturing inputs. Such information would not only assist the exporter in the selection and penetration of the most appropriate markets but also in the selection of the most appropriate products and techniques which are most effective, the Ministry said. In addition to market information, data will be kept by the unit on appropriate technology for small manufacturing projects. The national Trade Information System is presently manned by two officers. Technical assistance has been received from the Export Market Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat and also from the Caribbean Trade Information System. Manufacturers will be able to obtain information by contacting the Ministry at telephone number 23545 which will respond on the basis of its data on hand or if not available, will seek the advice from a correspondent agency. "Manufacturers and exporters are encouraged to make full use of this service which is available free of cost," the Ministry said. [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 10 Jan 87 p 3] /9274

INVESTMENT PROMOTION IN JAPAN--Mr Leslie Clarke, Chairman of the National Development Corporation (NDC) returned to St Lucia earlier this month following a nine day Investment Promotion visit to Japan. Mr Clarke's visit to Japan was at the invitation of the Japanese External Trade Organization (JETRO). Also invited was Mr Sam Goodluck, chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation of St Vincent and the Grenadines. During the visit, Mr Clarke made presentations on behalf of St Lucia at two seminars organized by JETRO. The first, held in Tokyo on January 27, attracted seventy-seven persons, representing manufacturers, trading houses, banks, construction companies and others. The second, held in Osaka two days later, attracted twenty-six attendees also spanning a broad spectrum of Japanese business interests. The Chairman of the National Development Corporation also met with a wide cross section of Japan's private and public sector organizations, including the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japan Fisheries Association and a number of Japanese manufacturers. The delegation travelled to Tokyo, Shizuka, Yokohama, Osaka and Kobe during the nine days spent in Japan. [Text] [Castries CRUSADER in English 14 Feb 87 p 10] /9274

CSO: 3298/173

MITCHELL COMMENTS ON PROBLEMS AFFECTING CARIBBEAN

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 27 Feb 87 pp 8-9

[Article by Elvis Ollivierre]

[Text] Prime Minister, James Mitchell has noted his views on some of the critical problems affecting the region. The Prime Minister was being interviewed here recently on regional and the local affairs of an international media representative. Mr Mitchell said that trading problems in the region emanated in part from "structural problems" in individual member states. Mitchell explained that the purchasing power of some of these countries has been considerably eroded and weakened in the past and, in turn, countries have been becoming more protectionist regarding their own industries.

These protectionist measures have resulted in restrictions in the movement of goods, the Prime Minister noted. "What fantastic opportunities would be available for our people if we will really free up the region and if there was a freedom of movement of capital, of goods and of people. It will really be imaginative once again", said Mitchell.

Despite these set backs however, Mitchell indicated that the level of co-operation among the member states of the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) was quite positive. "We are getting along very well," he said. He added that fortunately for the OECS, it has a group of leaders today who under-

stand the problems of the region and the importance of seeking common solutions to these problems. "As a result of this common interest, we are working together very well and I think it speaks well for the future," he said.

The Prime Minister said that if federation for the OECS countries succeeds at the present time, it will be because of the quality of the present leadership. "We can learn a lot from the mistakes of the past," Mitchell declared, adding that there are issues (obstacles in the way of a federation movement) which should be put aside. Said Mitchell, "We have to look at the basic structural problems and in fact take a great leap forward. It calls for an act of faith."

The leadership of the

region continues to look for new answers as the turn of the century approaches Mitchell said. However, militarization of the region is not one of these new answers as far as he is concerned. He reiterated his anti-militarization stance quite firmly indeed. "I am concerned about social and economic development of the region. I feel that a military option is one for surgery and is not of continuing medicine. I cannot see the Caribbean political scene as one constantly in need of political surgery," Mitchell declared.

The Prime Minister stated that he is optimistic about the region's future because he feels that the Caribbean still has numerous resources that can be put to better use.

However, he is worried on the score of population growth, particularly the rate of teenage pregnancy. "The pregnancy of young mothers who do not have a job or home, or whose education is not complete and they are producing children for whom they have no guidance I am worried on that score!"

The Prime Minister concluded, "Those of us who are in office now have a fantastic responsibility if we are going to ensure that these islands are orderly governed and remain peaceful. I am worried that if we do not satisfy the expectations of our bulging population, come the turn of the century we could have another round of problems again."

NDP CANDIDATE CAMPBELL WINS KINGSTOWN BY-ELECTION

Interview With Victor

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 6 Feb 87 p 1

[Article by Elvis Ollivierre]

[Text]

Barrister-at-Law and Former Senator of the New Democratic Party Government Parnel Campbell has won overwhelmingly the East Kingstown By-Election contested by six candidates on Monday February 2, 1987.

Campbell won 80.02% of the total votes cast - an increase of two percent on the NDP's 1984 General Election victory in that constituency. He polled 1,749 votes. Despite the low turn out of voters his tally out numbered the votes collected two years ago by Eddie Griffith, whose death caused the By-Election.

THE VINCENTIAN had an exclusive interview with Campbell following, what he described as "a massive victory for the New Democratic Party and himself."

"It is always great to be on the winning side", Campbell said, speaking in a relaxed manner at his home in Murrays Village.

He explained that this had been his first victory at the polls and his second outing in an election. He was defeated in 1979 when he contested the Central Leeward Constituency on a United People's Movement ticket. But those were his "greener days" politically, he noted.

"I have settled down and have become well integrated into the NDP and it is in this party that I am finding political fulfilment", the new MP said.

During the interview, Campbell reflected on the outcome of the election and the performance of some of the candidates. With reference to the outcome of the election, he felt that it was a vote of confidence in the policies of the Ruling NDP Government.

Campbell said that the people have come to realise that they have a

government with sound economic policies and good financial management, adding that their vote had "reflected what they had in their minds".

In his assessment of the performances of the other candidates, Campbell noted that the results clearly showed that the people were not buying their message and felt that they were not good enough to be trusted with the instrument of political power. He expressed the view that some of the candidates should reconsider their role in politics.

The issue of democracy as demonstrated in the By-Election was brought up.

The NDP Government had allowed all the political parties every freedom of the media to carry out their campaign, and Campbell claimed to be of strong democratic leaning himself. He saw his role with the government as "simply furthering and assisting in maintaining the very strong inclinations for democracy that the NDP Government has already manifestly shown".

Campbell explained that his recent accusation regarding Radio 705 news personnel was blown up out of all proportion. He added "that is all behind us now and we are back to square one".

One of Campbell's major objectives while in Government will be that of true service to the people of East Kingstown and also assistance in building the

society generally. Campbell's theory on an elected representative is this, "he should see his whole term of office as a campaign for re-election!" With this in view and with the next general election coming up in two and a half years, he plans to keep in close contact with his constituents by the provision of facilities for visits to him three times per week to avoid negligence.

He will also advance closer ties with the people of his Constituency by going to a different Church within the Constituency every possible Sunday.

Campbell hoped that his opposers in the election had learnt a lesson this time, "because the next time around I am going to be a much harder candidate for the Opposition to deal with".

The St. Vincent Labour Party Candidate, Burns Bonadie polled 791 of the votes cast and was the only other candidate to save his deposit of five hundred dollars. However, the SVLP vote had shrunk from 32 per cent in 1984 to 27.14 per cent.

The United People's Movement's Mike Browne polled 219 votes and increased his percentage from 5 in 1984 to 7.5. The Movement for National Unity Candidate, CYP Neehall got 78 votes which represented 2.67 per cent while Independent Candidate, Emery Robertson polled 41 votes which equalled 1.40 per cent. The People's Political Party Candidate, Percival Stapleton, got 6 votes or 0.20 per cent. There were spoilt votes - representing 1.02 per cent.

Political Analysis

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 6 Feb 87 p 4

[Ken John column "This Week": "By-Election Review"]

[Text]

My election forecast was pretty good, even if I say so myself. My detractors are probably beside themselves in rage as, yet again, they are unable to hold me up to ridicule.

I thought that Stapleton of the PPP would have made it to double figures, but he appeared only to have kept the half-dozen constituents who endorsed his nomination. PPP leader Ebenezer Joshua seemed to have mixed up 1987 with 1957 and, using an out-

moded script, acted out a performance of thirty years ago when he first captured the seat of Government.

In fact, Joshua is frozen in the 1950's when he was cock of the roost, and is content with taking up permanent residence in the past. I certainly agree with Independent election analyst, Andrew Cummings, that the PPP is clinically dead. But, as the old political battle-axe used to say, perhaps rigor

moris has not yet set in. The East Kingstown constituency which killed Russell's P.D.P. in 1984 will probably bury the PPP in 1987.

At 41 (practically one vote for each year of his life), Emery Robertson has recorded his fourth and worst electoral drubbing. He failed to reach the half-century I generously accorded him. One can only hope that the extent of the licking will shock Emery into a sense of political realism.

The co-holder of Robertson's record, Edgie Richards, appeared on his platform. Edgie himself had chalked up his fourth and most disastrous defeat in the Central Leeward by-election in 1983. He mustered 33 votes then, putting paid to the chances of the S.N.M. ever lifting off the ground. Indications are that, in the manner, Emery's party-ingestion will also die still-born, as Andrew Cummings has matter-of-factly pronounced.

Admittedly, the Parties of the Left - U.P.M. and M.N.U. - (twisty and twirly) succeeded in confusing me somewhat to Adopt in propaganda techniques and self-promotion, the impression was given that they had made a bigger dent in the voting population. It turned out that after much sweat and tears U.P.M.'s Mike Browne just crossed over the 200 mark whereas I had capgily given him 350. And Cyp Neehall of the MNU who was earlier billed as the dark horse that was making most of the running, scraped up half the 140 votes I had anticipated - in fact 77 plus Bassy's ballot!

Naturally, both groups are making heavy weather of their "striking improvement". MNU talks about the 300% increase in its stocks: from 21 in 1984 to 78 in 1987, that is progress indeed! The sober truth is that at positions near to rock-bottom the slightest increases look statistically spectacular, but in real and common-sensical terms they do not amount to much. This 1987 by-election must force the MNU to take a long, hard look at itself.

UPM has assessed that it is progressively gaining acceptance among the electorate. But so far it has failed to recapture its initial position reflected in the 1979 elections. In a bizarre demonstration of "One step forward, Two backwards." However, UPM is not really in any popularity contest. With a definite ideology to sustain it, UPM is after people's minds and, only incidentally, in quest of votes. It will continue to play the game, no matter how much the cards are for the moment stacked against it.

CHALLENGER AND CHAMP

The by-election results have confirmed that since the 1984 General Election, Labour has been in steady, if slow, decline. First, they lost the election hands-down, 4 to 9 in a massive anti-Labour national swing. Then, to add insult to injury, their stronghold East Saint George, held by ex-leader and Prime Minister Milton Cato, for some 23 years, fell to NDP newcomer, Louis Jones in the 1985 by-election. Now Burns Bonadie's vote in the East Kingstown by-election has slipped some 5 percentage points while Parnel Campbell's NDP votes, actually increased by 2 percentage points. Something is rotten in the State of the Labour Party.

Correspondingly, the recent results show that the silent majority, as distinct from a dissident but vocal minority, understand the rough decisions which have been forced upon the Government in these hard times. In particular, most of the people believe that

Prime Minister "Son" Mitchell is the right man for them, at the right time. And, despite the ammunition thrown at Parnel Campbell personally, the feeling is that he has the capacity, commitment and compassion to do a good job of work among the team in which he has enlisted.

Many of Campbell's supporters and some of Burns' stayed at home for much the same reason: by election day the results were already a foregone conclusion. Had there been the 86% turn-out of 1984, all things being equal, Campbell would have returned about 2100 votes, and Burns 950. Anticipating a fall in the percentage turn-out, but a rise in total number of votes cast owing to new registrations, I had given Campbell 1900 and Burns 850. In fact they received 1749 and 791 respectively.

The signals coming from the by-election are crystal clear. The people have renewed the government's mandate with a ringing vote of confidence. The country is wedded to the idea of a two-party system and has little time for political adventurism. The Labour Party needs to put its house firmly in order if it is to regain the nation's respect. The time is NOT now for the politics of the Left. If it is true, as is borne out historically, that the Kingstown seats are a faithful barometer of the national political climate then, barring the upsurge of some freak weather, it is plain sailing for the NDP in 1989. Eddie Griffith is probably smiling in his grave.

So, the die is cast. "Soufriere politics" has

settled down, until the next time. Many will miss "the six contestants" on their TV shows. Personally, I could not savour the victory of my friend Parnel Campbell. Not merely because I felt for Burns, whatever his own feelings are towards me, but because Parnel chose to win on a night on which the West Indian cricketers lost in Australia.

VINCENTIAN Comment

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 6 Feb 87 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

The people of East Kingstown have spoken loud and clear. In Monday's by-election they chose Parnel Campbell as their representative. Campbell received an even higher percentage of the total votes cast than Eddie Griffith did in 1984. He was beaten by Burns Bonadie in only one box.

Parnel's 60.02 percent of the votes gave him a higher than 20 percent majority over the combined five opposition candidates.

Campbell's triumph demonstrated that neither character assassination, silly prudery, nor catchy slogans have any real effect on a lot of voters. The criterion has become accomplishment or failure when in power, once the opportunity to compare is available. The New Democratic Party Leader, Prime Minister James Mitchell, invited the East Kingstown electors to use the opportunity afforded by the poll to show whether or not they were satisfied with his government's handling of the country's affairs. The fact that he introduced this aspect demonstrated once again the confidence of the NDP leader in his policies.

In an interview with the National Broadcasting Corporation's Kendal Morgan after his victory, Campbell thanked the voters for the trust they had put in him in spite of the personal attacks levelled at him. He said that the vote of confidence was a mandate to the government to continue its policies.

He also noted that his name had been cleared in the highest court - the people. Campbell repeated his plan for making himself available to his constituents on a routine basis three afternoons a week - until such time as a call on him for service by the Prime Minister might make the schedule impossible. He promised that if and when that happened new arrangements for consultation would be made, and in any case he would deal with emergencies.

The results showed a gain in support for the United People's Movement. With all the good work done by its candidate Mike Browne, and his pleasing and obviously sincere personality, it is of course debatable whether UPM or Mike himself should be given the credit.

The Labour Party's reduced percentage of votes seems to indicate that the country's "second party" is losing instead of gaining ground. THE VINCENTIAN felt that the negative attitude displayed in the campaign of Labour - attempting to destroy Campbell instead of building for itself through establishing confidence by the offer of a viable programme for national construction - was ridiculous.

Neehall's votes were an improvement on Blazer Williams' in 1984 - but again young CYP's sincere commitment to service of the underprivileged might have been the deciding factor.

It would seem that in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, like most of the rest of the world, the Day of the Independent in Politics is dead. So is the PPP here at home.

The disappointing part of the election was the comparatively low turn out of voters. We can only assume that some people felt that since the result would make little or no difference to the strength of the NDP Government, they might just as well save themselves the trouble of turning out to vote.

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CSO: 3298/175

TRADE TALKS HELD WITH BARBADOS HIGH COMMISSIONER

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 9 Jan 87 p 1

[Article by Maralyn Ballantyne]

[Text]

Barbados High Commissioner to the OECS countries and Trinidad and Tobago, Guyanese born Mr. Frank DaSilva, called on Chamber of Commerce President Reggie DaSilva on Wednesday. The two men held informal discussions. Chamber officials Richard Gunn, Garnet Eustace, Francis Bowman and Chamber Manager Cecile Richards sat in on the discussions. High Commissioner DaSilva reassured the St. Vincent Chamber that Barbados is strongly in favour of removal of all barriers to free trade. Under the former Barbados Government, Barbados importers had a strong lobby and some manufactured goods though available from regional sources, were being imported from outside the region.

High Commissioner DaSilva said that the Barbados Manufacturers Association is willing to help the OECS countries. He said that strong laws are being enforced in Barbados against garments from out-

side the Caribbean Community. To the manufacturers in OECS, the Barbados message is "Come out and sell".

Chamber President DaSilva said that the Chamber here has been aggressively championing the merits of free trade for years.

At the moment, St. Vincent is increasing its exports of agricultural products to Barbados. Barbados is very generous as regards allowing OECS products into their market. The St. Vincent Brewery has recently entered the lucrative Barbados market (first shipment was made in June last year). Increasingly, Barbados products are also entering the markets of the OECS countries.

The question of protection of some industries was looked at. The Chamber President said that it is now well known that indiscriminate protection serves no useful purpose. Instead prices go up and quality goes down. He added that as a result of the

combined efforts of the Chamber and the Ministry of Trade, one local manufacturer has found it necessary to change his price structure drastically.

The High Commissioner also heard of the Air Freight problem which is affecting both St. Vincent and Dominica. (See story, "Problems with CARICAGO" The Vincentian 15th August 1986.) He promised faithfully to try to help resolve this problem. "I'll be happy to look into it when I get home," he said.

Barbados Air Licensing Transport authorities have upheld objections by CARICAGO thus preventing the upliftment of perishable produce and manufactured goods from St. Vincent bound for Miami. As a result of this break down, a manufacturing firm here has postponed expansion plans.

High Commissioner DaSilva urged the leaders in industry to continue to make statements supporting free trade "The time is right for a

new set of statements on free trade. We must make it irrefutable that free trade is essential." At the 10th OECS heads of Government meeting, OECS heads agreed to support moves for the complete liberalising of trade among OECS countries as of January 1988.

BRIEFS

TRADE TALKS WITH ST LUCIA--Minister for Trade, Industry and Agriculture Marcus DeFreitas, led a joint government private sector trade delegation to St Lucia to discuss developments in bilateral trade between the two countries. Other members of the three-man delegation were Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture Kingsley Layne and a representative of the private sector in St Vincent and the Grenadines Ken Boyea. The visiting delegation held talks with St Lucia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Industry and Tourism, George Mallet and Ministry officials. Last week's trade talks were a follow-up of previous talks at the Government level between St Lucia and St Vincent aimed at increasing the flow of trade between these states. At the meeting the two delegations discussed a wide range of bilateral trade matters within the context of the OECS-CARICOM trading relations. In keeping with the decisions taken at the recently concluded OECS meeting in Antigua, the delegations agreed to work diligently towards the agreed implementation of free-trade within the OECS by January 1, 1988. [Text] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 9 Jan 87 p 3] /9274

NEW MINISTER--Jerry Scott was sworn in as Minister of Housing, Labour and Community Development at Government House on 23rd December. He was formerly Minister of State in that Ministry with special responsibility for Youth and Sports. Scott entered the political arena when he contested the General Elections in 1979 for the South Leeward Constituency. He lost and was an NDP Senator from 1979 to 1980. After winning the South Leeward Constituency Seat in 1984, he was made Junior Minister in the Ministry of Housing, Labour and Community Development, and acted as Minister on several occasions at times in the Ministries of Tourism and Communications and Works. Scott was president of the National Youth Council from 1975 to 1978, and was at one time a Vice President of the Civil Service Association. Commenting on the appointment--Prime Minister James Mitchell said the new Minister will pay immediate attention to the Fair Hall Housing Project, the rehabilitation of North Leeward, and the Labour and Wages Council. The outgoing Housing Minister David Jack has been appointed Minister of Health, a position left vacant by the passing of the Hon Eddie Griffith. [Text] [Kingston THE VINCENTIAN in English 2 Jan 87 p 1] /9274

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